

Eco Church Group report for Annual Report 2019

We've had a very busy year and are really grateful for the enthusiasm and practical support from across the congregation, PCC and staff. This is a report on the activities of the Eco Church Group but there's a lot more being done by the congregation, here and abroad, that fulfils our vision of becoming more environmentally faithful.

Having won the Bronze Award in 2017 we're working hard to win the much more demanding Silver Award in 2020 or 2021. The award is run by Arocha, a Christian environmental group, and involves us making substantial new progress across five areas: Worship and Teaching, Buildings, Land, Community and Global Engagement, and Lifestyles. Here are some highlights of our year as we work towards key targets in each:

- **three eco-themed services:**
 - 22 April (Earth Day), at which Rev Simangaliso Kumalo from South Africa (pictured) preached
 - 4 November, at which Bishop Alice Muthoni, a colleague of Rev Kumalo (also pictured), preached, followed by a LOAF lunch and discussion attended by 50
 - 13 January, at which David Chandler (Arocha) spoke on the Eco Church award.
- switched to a **renewable energy electricity and gas supplier** (Total) on 1 April 2018.
- launched a major project to explore the possibility of **secondary glazing** in the main hall to reduce significant heat loss. We began the search for contractors and funding, consulted with experts and the Diocese and we hope to consult the congregation in due course.
- ran a **congregational survey on lifestyle issues**, getting an excellent response of 71 (thank you!), presented key findings on 23 September and began planning practical follow-ups – starting with an Easter 2019 challenge to help people switch to renewable energy.
- **communicated with the congregation** through regular eco-slots in services and themed Factsheets – and began to design our own website which we hope to launch by Easter 2019.
- launched a **Toilet Twinning scheme**, raising over £750 (thank you!) to fund 8 clean toilets in majority world countries.
- connected with the **Diocesan** environmental group, gave a talk on Eco Church at St Michael's university church and will be giving another at the launch of the Ely Cathedral Eco Church group in April.
- progress on 'Land' for the award is a challenge because we have so little, but we're really grateful to Ann and Rodney for making our **garden** as eco-friendly as possible.
- thanks to Chris Brown who stood down as chair in early 2019 after two years, and we welcomed new members Alison Hornsby and Charlotte Jackson (an ordinand with a background in sustainability) to the group. More members always welcome!

Jonathan Chaplin (Chair)