*Report for APCM 2024 – Eco Church.*

Eco-Church is a scheme managed by the non-denominational Christian charity A Rocha. It provides a pathway via Bronze, Silver and Gold awards for churches (including their congregations) to progress towards fully-sustainable practices in the interests of caring for God’s creation.

As a Benefice we embarked on this journey in the summer of 2023. Starting with the A Rocha questionnaire that is means of assessing ourselves and scoring the “points” needed for each award.

We – meaning any of us wanting to learn and champion our progress - meet at monthly Saturday breakfasts around the Benefice, which are publicised in Common Ground and What’s On. Please give us a try if you haven’t been to one, and are interested.

Over the months since last July at our breakfast meetings we have met Jennie South, the “Eco Ambassador” for our Deanery, who is a fount of knowledge and encouragement; we have explored methods of calculating our personal carbon “footprint”; we have learned about sustainable ways of arranging flowers, coping with Christmas, recycling, re-using and repairing, using “greener” products for household cleaning, and deciding how to clothe ourselves more sustainably. And there are plenty more topics to come.

Andrew Pemberton

4th April 2024