



The Priory Church of St Mary



Welcome to the March edition of Keep in Touch. This month we are celebrating being awarded the Bronze Eco Church Award. This works is being led by our Wardens and there will be opportunities for everyone to be involved in the future. Everyone is invited to share your ideas to continue to grow as an Eco Church – please contact a Warden.

‘What is Eco Church?’

Eco Church is an award scheme designed to motivate and resource churches in England and Wales to care for God's earth as part of their everyday work and witness.

In a time of unprecedented environmental stresses, Eco Church enables churches to respond to God’s mandate to human beings to care for His creation, by integrating environmental care throughout their church’s life and mission.

Creation Pray
Heavenly Father,

Our hearts are filled with thanksgiving and inspiration when we look around and see the beauty of nature and of all creation. Each little petal on the tiniest flower to the highest mountain, every creature who inhabits the earth, every season of each year; all are so special, and to know that each of us is part of the wonder of creation is truly a blessing.

May we be ever mindful of all the blessings granted to us and remember to respect creation by using the earth’s resources wisely, being kind and helpful to each other and showing care to all creatures for the good of all and in glory and thankfulness to you.

We know that you love all that you have created, and we are thankful that you are always with us in our lives – in our joys and good times – as well as in our sad and difficult times – forever faithful and caring.

We welcome you into our lives, Gracious Lord, and pray that your Spirit may dwell richly within us, so that we may serve you gladly and we may be the people you would have us be in this World.

Amen.

(By Betty Lewis)



How do you achieve an Eco Award?

Churches complete the unique online Eco Survey about how they are caring for God’s earth in different areas of their life and work. The answers a church provides will collect points towards an Eco Church Award – the more your church does, the more points you get!

The survey takes you through five key areas of church life:

- Worship and teaching
- Management of church buildings
- Management of church land
- Community and global engagement
 - Lifestyle

It takes into account whether or not your church has buildings or land, and you can save your survey responses at any point and return to update them as your church completes additional actions.



**Creator of our common home,
 You fill the earth and sea and sky with life
 Forgive us our neglect of your creation
 The choking waste of our pollution
 The damage done by careless habits
 And our indifference to future generations.
 Help us to amend our lives
 To refuse more plastic if we can't reuse it
 To lift our voice for lasting change
 And to live well and gently on the earth
 To the glory of your Son, the Living Word
 Through whom you made this fragile world.
 Amen.**
**Rt Revd Steven Croft
 Bishop of Oxford**

Your church has made a commitment to become an Eco Church
 By making small changes we can all help look after Gods Creation preserving it for future generations.

Top Tips

- Replace regular light bulbs 💡 with low energy ones
- Walk or cycle 🚲 when travelling locally
- Reduce, Reuse, Recycle ♻️
- Switch to energy providers that use renewable energy
- Use recycled paper, toilet roll and kitchen roll
- Purchase products that are fair trade
- Purchase food that is locally grown and sourced e.g. vegetables 🍅

PCC News and Dates for your Diary

Easter Services
 Across the Ministry Area there is a glimmer of hope that we will be able to celebrate Easter together in a number of churches and give the option of joining on- line later in the day. Further details will follow.

Vestry Meeting

The Constitution of the Church in Wales now permits the vast majority of church meetings to be held online including Vestry Meetings. St Mary's PCC will be arranging the Annual Vestry Meeting on Monday 12th April at 7pm via Zoom. A formal notice and access details together with details on how to nominate PCC members and the People's Warden will be included in the weekly update from Reverend Sally and on the notice board.

St Mary's Tidy up
 Your opportunity to get involved with our Eco Church as we plan a tidy up of the church and churchyard whilst introducing additional Eco features. At present the date is 24th April. Further details will be shared in the next KIT newsletter and will be Covid compliant.

Eco ideas – don't forget to share your ideas




Thank you to Anwen and Eluned Ridley who have made and decorated these beautiful bird boxes which are now hanging in the churchyard trees.

Lent

Over 120 Lent bags were collected from across the Ministry Area. Thank you to Reverend Sally and her team of helpers who produced and delivered the bags.

There are regular groups meeting each week to explore Lent via zoom.

- Monday 2pm (led by Raglan MA)
- Tuesday 9.30am (led by Revd. Sally)
- Tuesday 3pm (led by Goytre MA)
- Thursday 2pm (led by Raglan MA)

<https://zoom.us/j/99927240868?pwd=Z3h1WjIhZjZjdjFhXSGJTOE91dz09>
 Meeting ID: 999 2724 086 Passcode: LENTEN

Services St Mary's is open for private prayer Thursday morning at 10am.
 Usk MA Services:
 9.30am Service on YouTube
 - https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCS_MlC17UW1xWiQm7ZxMr1A/videos
 10.30am Zoom coffee after church -
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85702033318>
 Meeting ID: 857 0203
 There is no Morning Prayer next week but Compline is happening on Thursday on Zoom Compline
 Meeting ID 954 9508 3856
 Passcode COMPLINE

Best Wishes
 We were sorry to say goodbye to Rachel Taylor who has recently moved from Usk. Rachel and Simon started the church youth group several years ago and Rachel has run it very successfully, with many children from across the Ministry area attending. We send our best wishes to Rachel, Simon, Huw and Anwen in their new home.

LIFT
 To receive a weekly update from Rev'd Sally. Please email revdsally@gmail.com