







Supporting Evidence for the Eco Church Gold Award¹

Holy Trinity Church is an inclusive church. We celebrate and affirm not only every person, but also the world in which we all live.

Holy Trinity Church: Our Environmental Principles

Nature and the environment are foundational to God's creation. Consequently, we see the environment as being inseparable from and integral to our beliefs and witness as an inclusive church. We state this at the outset because we do not want to be seen (only) as a 'green' church. Our clergy and congregation wish to be regarded as people who do 'the right thing'. We do not see the environment as a box to be ticked or another social cause, but as an expression of our overall and complete relationship with the diversity of all God's kingdom and its life-giving and affirming resources. Injustice and harm in one area are injustice and harm in another.

A second principle guiding our actions is we seek to communicate – both to our congregation (who are accepting of this) and to the wider community - that thinking about and protecting the environment should be regarded as part of normal, everyday life. In our account below, there are examples of where we try to be a 'beacon' to the wider community, shining a light on what can and should be doing. We don't do this in a 'preachy' way, but by sitting alongside other groups in Guildford and trying to inspire, encourage and demonstrate by example. We, in turn, have learnt much from working with and on behalf of local churches, groups and organisations.

We are proud to be an Eco Church. We believe that Christians have a particular responsibility to care for God's creation. We state these six points clearly on our website:

- The church should be demonstrating to all Christians and non-Christians that it is concerned with social and environmental issues. The church can set a good example to the local community and make visible to the wider world, as a matter of witness, its concern for nature and the environment.
- 2. The church can demonstrate that the social and physical environment is inseparable from the spiritual environment.



3. Christians believe that God is revealed in many ways - through the person of Christ, through the working of the Holy Spirit and through the physical manifestation

¹ This is the document we submitted as part of assessment process for the A Rocha Eco Church Gold Award.

of all Creation. The respect and protection of nature and the environment ought, therefore, to be an essential element in Christian belief and practice.

- 4. As there is a theological imperative for social action, so too is there a theological imperative for environmental engagement and action.
- 5. Christians should be concerned with social justice in the whole of God's world. The environment is an inseparable part of social justice.
- 6. Act Locally, Think Globally ought to have special significance for Christians. The church with its local, national and international networks is in a unique position to promote, support and engage in environmental actions in both the local and wider community, and in the countries of the Global North and the Global South

Worship and Teaching

Preaching and celebrating the importance of the environment in various forms, is regularly incorporated into the liturgy throughout the year² (WT2, WT3, WT4) as well as periods such as Creationtide (WT1). For example, we have 'dialogue sermons' in which the Rector discusses an issue with a member of the congregation or a guest from one of the charities we support (WT5). In Creationtide this year, we hope they will be a former member of the congregation who works for WWF.



meeting on Zoom and the students have discussed various ecological projects they have read about (e.g., rewilding – a subject that is picked up by the Rector in his sermons; whether emissions targets are soon enough; the impact of the lockdown on nature). Now the pandemic restrictions are easing, we have been participating in the Church of England initiative Churches Count on Nature. Our Children and Families Coordinator organised a programme on God's Creation, with prayers and artwork, in the second half of the summer term.

The Children and Families Coordinator has also created an Easter activity pack for our young families which included some 'spring and wonderful Creation' aspects. Junior Caring for God's earth is a strong feature included in all our children and youth work WT6, WT7). The Children and Families Co-ordinator organises a Café Club for 12 - 15-year-olds after school one day a week. This group discusses a wide range of social issues. Since the pandemic, the Café Club has been

"The children seem to find a natural (in every way) form of worship in being in the churchyard and see it as an extension of the church building and what is taking place in there. Prayer comes easily and there is a sense of awe even in the smallest children, at the complexity of God's bounty and our Christian responsibility as caretakers. Articulating gratitude for the world around us and appreciating even the smallest creatures also chime closely in children's minds with Christian premises of loving our neighbour and caring for those who may need our help. The more time our children spend focussing how we appreciate nature and look after it, the more aware they seem to be about environmental issues in their everyday lives."

"Several times a year we take blankets out into the churchyard, and all lie on our backs under the trees and pray together looking up into the branches and the sky. We thank God for his creation and list some of the things we love in nature and enjoy doing outdoors. We talk about how we are just part of God's creation along with the oceans and animals and plants and how we must not forget that in God's eyes all living things are important. This leads to discussion about our responsibility to take care of God's earth and how we can do this (litter picking, recycling, not wasting food, trying to walk places and not take the car, by looking after our bodies – keeping fit and eating healthily)."

Pippa Mitchell, Holy Trinity Children and Families Coordinator

² Letters/numbers in brackets refer to questions in the Eco Church Survey, i.e., WT=Worship and Teaching; B = Buildings; La = Land; CGE = Community and Global Engagement; Lf = Lifestyle.



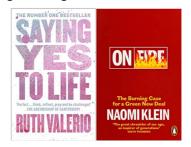
The Year 2 pupils removed all the old, 'leggy' lavender and planted shrubs and bulbs in the garden at the front of the church.

Church (3 – 7 years) and the Trinity Breakfast Club (+ 8 years) which meet on Sunday mornings engage in environmental activities. It is fully intended that when these groups can safely return to the church, they will continue a practice of recent years which is having sessions outdoors in the churchyard. We also involve local schools with our environmental work. For example, we invited a group of Year 2 children from Sandfield School to help us restore the garden at the front of the church that overlooks the High Street.

We have two adult discussion groups – the *Upper Room*, led by the clergy and typically for those aged between 30 - 50, which discusses social and environmental issues, and the *Trinity Club*, a discussion group typically comprising those aged over 50 who can

attend meetings during the day. Climate change has been discussed on several occasions.

Just before the first lockdown there was a talk and discussion comparing Ruth Valerio's book *Saying Yes to Life* (2020) with Naomi Klein's book, *On Fire: The Burning Case for a Green New Deal* (2020).



Buildings

We are blessed that our Parish comprises two churches, a 10th century Saxon church (St Mary's), and an 18th century Georgian church (Holy Trinity), the only large Georgian church in Surrey. Both churches are Grade I Listed Buildings. Our application relates to Holy Trinity Church and the Trinity Centre (i.e., the parish centre and church office). Our three church buildings are all separate and use different energy supplies. The Trinity Centre is also used by the St Mary's congregation (we also host the Guildford Methodists in St Mary's). This raised questions for us as to whether we should divide the footprint by half (i.e., just for Holy Trinity). We would value a discussion with you as to how one



should measure carbon footprints when a Parish does not necessarily equal one church building.

Our responsibilities and resources for three separate buildings present challenges. Over the last seven years or so we have spent over £2 million on repairs and refurbishment work on both St Mary's and Holy Trinity churches. While HLF grants funded much of this, some £300,000 was raised from our own congregation.

As with all churches we face challenges in doing as much as we would like to do, and how we prioritise the work. We take every opportunity to address energy efficiency issues and add environmental upgrades during maintenance work (B28). Our most recent urgent expenditure has been to repair and refurbish St Mary's Church, so we took this opportunity to replace the heating system by installing new energy-efficient unfloor heating. For example, the Trinity Centre boiler failed several years ago, and this provided an opportunity to replace it with a new boiler which is A-rated and fuelled by natural gas. We are, now currently exploring moving across to biogas.

We intend to replace the D-rated oil-fuelled heating boiler in Holy Trinity as soon as possible, but there is no gas supply to the church, and the boiler was unfortunately only replaced in the 1990s. Given the building work and the replacement of heating boilers in our other two buildings, it is hopefully understandable why we still have an oil boiler. By way of compensation, we offset our 2020 carbon emissions from Holy Trinity heating system. We have two aspirational goals, a) to replace the Holy Trinity church heating boiler with a low or zero carbon system as soon as it is financially feasible, b) install (if permitted by the Borough Council) photovoltaic panels on the southfacing roof, linked to a battery storage facility (B31).

Notwithstanding these challenges, we have made considerable progress in reducing our energy consumption and thus carbon emissions in Holy Trinity Church over the last 2-3 years: a) all our electricity is 100% green electricity, purchased through the Parish Buying Energy Basket Scheme (B4), b) all grill radiators have been cleaned and we have installed a new lower energy industrial pump, c) we have cleaned all the wall mounted radiators, removing many years of dust and other material to improve their effectiveness and efficiency; a new efficient radiator was also installed in the choir vestry, d) we now have a timeclock-controlled



thermostat, both for the heat from the boiler, and the temperature inside of the nave, e) we totally over-hauled, mostly replaced, and significantly enlarged (in anticipation of climate change events), the Georgian and Victorian external roof drainage system and down-pipes, so for the first time in over a century the internal walls are now dry, f) every time lights or fittings need replacing, we fit LED bulbs; now all our lighting use LEDs including the two nave chandeliers (B14,16, B17); the Trinity Centre has some LEDs and some low energy bulbs (B15), the latter will be replaced in due course, g) self-closing door closures have been added to both the main West entrance and the South-West disabled access, retaining heat within the building.

We insulate the church and all other church premises as much as we are able (B7-10). When we replaced the half-conical roof over the Apsidal east end, we were able to improve the thermal insulation. In the flat ceiling void, we have been able to insulate the ceiling, above current Building Regulation standards. We have double-glazed as many of our premises as possible, but the Trinity Centre awaits completion (B11-13). This last improvement illustrates another challenge. Aside from



restrictions by virtue of our Grade I listing, Holy Trinity Church and the Trinity Centre are in a Conservation Area. We started installing double-glazed windows in the Trinity Centre, replacing the old and poorly fitting metal-framed windows. The local authority conservation officers, however, took an uncompromising position with regards to the energy-saving changes we wanted to make, with subjective conservation judgements trumping energy-saving gains. This will be resolved within the next 12 months. We are not always in control of our own destiny. The church is not floodlit (B18). Calculating our energy footprint has not been straightforward (B1,2). One of the most useful outcomes of the Eco Church process has been that it has highlighted deficiencies in how we are able to monitor our energy consumption. In attempting to calculate our energy footprint, we discovered that our three principal church buildings have eleven meters recording energy use. These are all 'three-phase' smart meters sending data to *Total Gas and Power* from whom we purchase gas and electricity (green) via the Parish Energy Basket Scheme. However, *TG&P* have conflated the consumption figures across all three principal buildings. We can, however, provide some basic evidence in support of our reduced energy consumption and carbon emissions. In respect of Holy Trinity Church and the Trinity Centre, our consumption of electricity through the peak winter months (Oct – April) from 2014/15 – 2019/20 has declined significantly (approx. 15%) due to the energy efficiency improvements we have made as described above. We are now discussing with TG&P the need for individualised building/energy invoices. We will then be able to calculate our energy footprint with greater accuracy.

Heating in the church is fuelled by oil. The oil is purchased when the storage tank gets low (until now, we have not been recording use). The amount of oil purchased over the last six years has declined and, as a consequence, our carbon emissions. Our consumption of oil for heating was higher in 2019 because Guildford Cathedral was being refurbished, and many services came to Holy Trinity³ (on one day in December we had four carol services). But following the energy reduction measures described above, comparing the last quarter 2016/first three-quarters 2017 oil consumption with the same period in 2019/2020, we reduced our carbon emissions by 25%.

We have one water butt (B20; only appropriate place), and toilet cisterns are all fitted with water saving devices (B22). We use environment-friendly cleaning products (B24). Paper use is minimised (B26) and every opportunity is taken to use recycled paper (B23,27). We provide recycling facilities in the church and parish office (B30). If recycled paper cannot be used, we use paper that is labelled FSC (Forest Stewardship Council)/EU Ecolabel certification). We have provided cycle locking facilities against the church and have also persuaded Surrey County Council to instal further cycle racks immediately in front of the church (B29).

Land

Our congregation regard Holy Trinity Churchyard and garden as a special place:

- 1. a sacred space holding mortal remains
- 2. a place of respect and commemoration for the departed
- 3. an historic place
- 4. a space of reflection, beauty and restoration
- 5. a haven for grasses, wildflowers, trees, birds, butterflies and other wildlife
- 6. an expression of the parish's environmental priorities
- 7. an occasional setting for the work of all the youth groups
- 8. a place that provides a feeling of welcome and a safe and easy access to the church buildings and to the graves



All these intentions are now realised. After many years of simply keeping the churchyard vegetation under control by a few dedicated members of the congregation and the local authority cutting the grass, the Eco Group set about managing it actively. An enthusiastic group of volunteers meet every

³ Holy Trinity is Guildford's Civic Church. From 1927, when the diocese of Guildford was created, until 1961 when Guildford Cathedral was consecrated, it served as the Pro-Cathedral.

month or so (with individuals often active more frequently) to care for the churchyard in a way that protects and encourages wildlife, makes it a haven of quiet and restoration for visitors, as well as a setting for our children and youth groups.



We have been rewarded by many people saying how attractive it is, especially in the Spring. The mound in the centre of the churchyard is typically used by the youth groups, the slopes of which as well as other parts of the churchyard are planted with wildflowers and plants that encourage pollinators (La1,4,5). We have also encouraged and been supported by members of the local community (our immediate neighbours in Trinity Churchyard) who have assisted with planting flowers and removing grass and vegetation from overgrown tombstones. In the Community and Global Engagement section, you will see we work with local schools who use the churchyard as part of their environmental education programmes; we have also involved them in our planting programme. Our own youth groups use the churchyard as an

integral part of learning about caring for creation.

We now have a Management Plan (La14) that seeks to ensure the churchyard is managed with sympathy and understanding for wildlife, as well as looking well-cared for and attractive to the congregation, our neighbours and residents of Guildford, and visitors. We are grateful to Guildford Borough Council who support us through their Parks and Gardens Department; they cut the grass according to our desired mowing régime (La6).





Cycle racks and our swift box

As part of our collaboration with the Guildford Environmental Forum, we

have installed a swift box on the church tower (and will add another this year), as well as other nesting boxes and bug hotels (La2). We have been surveying the biodiversity of the churchyard by means of surveys of birds, wildflowers, cultivated plants, trees, mammals and insects/butterflies (La9; see Appendix 1). A full bat survey was undertaken in 2017/8.

We do not use pesticides or herbicides in the churchyard (La7). Most invasive plants such as alkanet are removed by hand. We anticipate receiving some small trees from the Woodlands

Trust this autumn, and we were consulted by Surrey CC on the replacement of a tree immediately outside the church (La8).

We have produced two interpretive panels for the churchyard and garden. Both panels inform visitors about the rich heritage of our Grade I Listed Georgian Church. As well as encouraging visitors to use the churchyard, the panels also inform the public about the conservation work we are undertaking in the churchyard and garden, and our membership of Eco Church (La13).



Community and Global Engagement



We are an outward looking church which is wellintegrated into the community. This is achieved not only through our formal ties with Holy Trinity Primary and Pewley Down First schools, but though our active relationships with other schools (e.g., Sandfield School, the Royal Grammar School, Guildford High School), and local organisations. For example, we are members of the Guildford Environmental Forum and actively support and collaborate with them (publicity, information dissemination, organise meetings). We have recently made links with Zero Carbon Guildford;

and we were early members of the Transition Town Guildford (CGE4). Our clergy and many members of our congregation are involved with local groups and interact with local leaders (MP, Borough and County Councillors), and make inputs into the Guildford Vision Group (www.guildfordvisiongroup.com) (CGE2).

Members of our congregation (and Eco Group) are actively involved local conservation work and clean-up projects (CGE6,7). Two members of the Eco Group team organise regular 'parish walks' (for the congregation and others) in surrounding rural parishes in West Surrey or just over the county borders in West Sussex and Hampshire. These always include a visit to a church and a short service (CGE10), and carsharing is encouraged (which is promoted on the website and in articles in our parish newsletter (CGE11,12)).



For us, Eco Church is not a three-level process ending with 'Gold', but an ongoing challenge to which we can attract and support other groups who are just starting the eco journey, as well as those who already have experience in tackling the environmental challenges we face. We see this as having a 'snowball' effect. We welcome opportunities to talk to other groups and encourage them in their activities to address the climate emergency. For example, one member of our Eco Group is talking to the Mothers' Union in September about Eco Church. In addition to the seven churches which are represented in their membership, all churches in the Guildford Deanery have been invited. Over the last few years, several churches in the Diocese have visited Holy Trinity to learn about our activities. Two of these churches have gone on to sign up to the Eco Church Scheme (e.g., All Saints, Onslow Village (now silver); St Martin of Tours, Epsom (now bronze)). Recently, the Guildford Diocese Environmental Officer asked our church to take on the role of Eco Champion church for the Guildford Deanery. We have welcomed this opportunity (CGE13).

We are supporting the local Fridays for Future group (YouthStrike4Climate Guildford). One of the leaders is a member of our congregation. We have encouraged the group to use Holy Trinity as a base when (pre-pandemic) they were holding their climate strikes in Guildford High Street. In September, we are hosting the YouthStrike4Climate Guildford Schools Climate Conference and

workshop. In 2018, the Diocese organised an Eco Church Conference at St Nicholas Church, Guildford at which we spoke about our youth work and the environment.

While we do much that is locally focussed, we are always concerned to make apparent the relationship between the local and the global. We publicise events like the Earth Hour (CGE15) and members of our Eco Group and the congregation participate in national and global campaigns (CGE16,17,19) and actions (CGE18). Holy Trinity Church has a long-established relationship with the church and school community of Kwasa (near Johannesburg) to which regular visits are made by clergy and the congregation (including youth members) in which they work with the local people.

They are always in our prayers (CGE4). Our parish supports local and internationally focussed charities (Appendix 2), many of which have environmental projects (e.g., Christian Aid; CGE20).

Our church has a long tradition of hosting public lectures across many themes and attracting some of the leading national authorities on these issues (CGE3). In 2019, we initiated a Holy Trinity Church Religion and the Environment Lecture programme. The first speaker was Ian Christie (lead researcher/author of the Church of England's 2009 vision and strategy for environmental action, *Church and Earth*; Environment Advisory Team, Dioceses of Southwark & Guildford). This was supported by the Guildford Environmental Forum, Guildford's principal climate crisis and sustainability NGO. In late 2019, we invited Professor Mike Berners-Lee (author of *There is no Planet B*) as part of the Guildford Book Festival; it attracted a significant audience from the wider community. We are in discussion with the Director of the Guildford Book Festival to co-sponsor and host a speaker talking on an environmental theme at this year's Festival. THU 10TH OCTOBER



6TH - 13TH OCT 2019



LEE: THERE IS NO PLANET B 6:30pm - 7:30pm Feeding the world, climate change biodiversity.

change, biodiversity, antibiotics, plastics – the list of concerns seems endless. But, what can we do to avoid blundering into disaster? Do we all

need to become vegetarian? How can we fly in a low-carbon world? Should we frack? Does it all come down to population? In his groundbreaking book Prof. Mike Berners-Lee gives a big-picture perspective on the environmental and economic challenges of the day, and offers practical and inspiring ideas for what you can do to help humanity thrive on this – our only – planet. In association with Holy Trinity Church Guildford

The PCC took the decision many years ago to ensure that as much catering as possible at church events followed LOAF principles (local/organic/animal-friendly/fairly-traded) (CGE 21,22, 23, 24, 25, 26). We always offer a vegetarian option at parish meals (CGE27). All food waste is minimised, and leftover food is taken away by participants and bottles are taken home to be included in domestic recycling (CGE28). We are active supporters of the North Guildford Food Bank.

Lifestyle

Practical information and advice as to how the congregation can easily incorporate carbon-reducing actions and more sustainable lifestyle practices into their daily lives are included in the church newsletter and on the website (Lf2,3,4,5,6,9,10,12). In addition to encouraging our congregation to undertake a personal carbon footprint audit (Lf4), in late 2018 we produced a questionnaire based on the A Rocha Eco Church Survey. However, we made it specifically relevant and appropriate for congregation home use. The survey follows the same five sub-headings, but we modified the questions for domestic use. We use this in two ways. First, we see it as a positive and meaningful

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way to encourage members of the congregation to think about their lifestyles and reduce their footprint and consumption practices. It does not finger wag or attempt to make people feel guilty. Second, the survey will provide us with baseline data against which we can compare the congregation's achievements over the coming years. We see the Eco Church award as just the next (encouraging and affirming) step along our path to become a zero-carbon church. Because of Covid-19 it was felt that given the significant changes in people's lifestyles and consumption habits brought about by lockdowns over the last 18 months, the follow up survey should be postponed until 2022. It might be expected that more sustainable habits and lifestyle preferences will have been adopted over the last year; we will find out whether these have been sustained.

While our survey is not an alternative to a carbon footprint calculator, (e.g., <u>www.360Carbon.org</u>), it does enable us to see more directly whether there is spillover

between the church's initiatives and what the congregation do at home. We have used the results of the survey to identify a) levels of interest and concern about environmental impacts, b) type and levels of environmental activity undertaken, and c) areas where improvements can be made so that we can promote new actions. We do this through writing articles for our monthly newsletter supplement which promotes activities (e.g., investments, energy reduction). We have also put a selection of the results of the survey on our website (Appendix 3).

Rev. Robert Cotton, Rector, Parish of Holy Trinity and St Mary's Professor David Uzzell, Lead, Holy Trinity Eco Group

20th August 2021



Appendix 1: Wildlife Survey

		Wild flowers (incl		
Birds	Mammals	naturalised)	Garden plants	Trees
Blackbird	Grey Squirrel	Alkanet, green	Allium sp	Ash
BlueTit	Pipistrelle bats	Bluebell	Crocus	Box
Carrion Crow		Bluebell, Spanish	Daffodil (various)	Holly
Dunnock		Bramble	Dogwood	Oak
Rock Pigeon		Buttercup, creeping	Euonymus	Sycamore
Goldfinch		Catsear	Geranium sp	Silver birch
Jackdaw		Celandine, greater	Grape Hyacinth	Yew
Magpie		Cleavers	Pansy	
Pied Wagtail		Common Nettle	Penstemon	
Robin		Corydalis, yellow	Photinia	
Starling		Cow Parsley	Primula	
Woodpigeon		Cranesbill, dovesfoot	Rosemary	
Great Tits		Cranesbill, shining	Sage	
House Sparrows		Creeping Buttercup	Sedum sp	
Swifts		Creeping Cinquefoil	Snowdrop	
House Martins		Daisy	Thyme	
Collared Doves		Dandelion	Tulip	
		Dead-nettle, Red		
		Dead-nettle, White		
		Dock		
		Forget-me-not		
		Groundsel		
		Herb Bennet		
		Herb Robert		
		Ivy-leaved Speedwell		
		Lords-and-ladies		
		Lungwort		
		Mallow, common*		
		Nettle, stinging		
		Petty Spurge		
		Plantain, greater		
		Primrose		
		Ragwort, common		
		Russian Comfrey		
		Shining Cranesbill		
		Smooth Sow-thistle		
		Speedwell, ivy-leaved		
		Spurge, petty		
		Sweet Violet		
		Thistle, *creeping		
		Violet, common dog		
		Violet, sweet		
		Yellow Corydalis		

Appendix 2: Charities supported



Appendix 3: Report on Holy Trinity and St Mary's Eco Congregation Survey Headline Results

In 2018, we carried out a survey of the congregations' (Holy Trinity and St Mary's) attitudes and dayto-day practices in reducing their environmental footprint. Here is a selection of some of the findings. It is our intention to repeat this survey to see where and how we have improved.

- 95% said they wanted for more information, ideas, tips. On how they can reduce their environmental impact
- More than 90% supported the church reducing its environmental impact
- 95% said that as a Christian, it is important to reduce our impact on the environment
- 80% of the congregation always or often buy electrical or gas appliances which are at least rated 'A' in terms of energy efficiency.
- 95% of the congregation buy Fairtrade and/or ethically sourced goods some of the time, and over 50% all the time
- 55% of the congregation try to have meat-free meals at least 5 days a week
- 78% try to encourage native wildlife and plants in my garden (e.g. provision of bird boxes and feeders etc.)
- 27% of the congregation have contacted our local MP or Borough councillors or Parish Councillors at least on one occasion to raise an environmental issue.
- Just under 40% of the congregation belong to a local (e.g., Guildford Environmental Forum, Surrey Wildlife Trust) or national environmental groups (e.g. RSPB).
- 75% of the congregation sometimes walk or cycle to church services, although this drops to 49% who do so always or often.
- 94% of the congregation try to reduce their car use by, for example, walking or travelling by public transport, but this drops to 51% who do so always or often
- 70% try to encourage others (e.g., family & friends) to reduce their energy consumption

Maybe in these areas we can make some improvements over the next year.

- 37% of the congregations' electricity supplied to their houses is generated from renewable resources and/or charged according to our supplier's 'green tariff'.
- Only 15% of households use LED low energy bulbs
- Only 65% of households have least one of the toilet cisterns fitted with dual-flush buttons or other water-saving devices
- 50% of households buy cleaning products which are environmentally friendly.
- 61% of the congregation think it is important to consider the environmental impact of how they invest their savings

Elsewhere on this website you can find advice on how you can reduce your environmental impact in most of these areas. If you want more advice, do write to the Eco Group at eco@holytrinityguildford.org.uk

What did you say?

At the end of the survey, we asked the congregation to say briefly what motivates you to try and reduce your environmental impact. Here are some of the comments.

- \oplus Environment and climate change are the most significant issues of our age.
- \oplus A concern for the environment, for our and future generations, and respect for God's creation.

- ① If we do not protect the environment from climate change, we cannot protect people either.
- ⊕ To reduce carbon emissions and try to make human impact on earth less harmful to nature. To make living more sustainable and leave earth in a better condition for next generation. To help reverse our impact on biodiversity.
- \oplus We only have one planet we depend on the air we breathe, the water we drink, the food we eat and the joy it brings.
- \oplus As one writer said, we are the 1st generation to understand our impact on the environment and the last to be able to do anything about it.
- \oplus I am always worried about the world young people will face that drives me most however feebly.
- ① If I am to love God I do not want to mess with his creation, but I do believe God has given us dominion over it to use carefully.