

Uplyme Church Eco-Church Report

The Uplyme Church congregation have performed environmental initiatives in and around the church, and special thanks go to the Rev Nicky, the indefatigable church wardens, and the maintenance team for their hard work over the year.

Uplyme Church realises that the care of God's Creation is part of our calling, and that maintaining a stable environment is essential in preventing poverty, hunger, and tragedies around the world.



Eco-Church Silver

An external organisation named A-Rocha runs an international accreditation scheme for churches, looking at the initiatives that are being taken. Although our church building has certain constraints, this year we graduated from the Bronze to the Silver award in recognition of the further steps we are taking.

Energy Use

Much of the church's energy use is in heating. We were able to replace our ageing inefficient boiler with a new, very efficient system. The maintenance team also installed reflective insulating panels behind our radiators to ensure that the heat is reflected into the building.

To minimise the time when the church is unnecessarily heated, we are installing a remote control for the boiler. This will also save the environmental impact of journeys to and from the church to turn the heating on for events.

We have also commissioned a church energy audit to suggest actions we can take to reduce the church's energy usage further, and we are looking at implementing these.



Land Use and Biodiversity

You will have noticed the "We managing our grounds less formally to help local wildlife" notice, and this approach is paying dividends in terms of beautiful wildflowers appearing, attracting butterflies and other pollinators. We hope we have struck the right balance between informality, but still keeping the churchyard as a respectful space.

Once again, we thank the maintenance team for fitting two swift boxes which were kindly donated, and we hope to see some swift families moving in soon.



Transport

We are delighted to see the cycle rack we installed being so well used. So well used in fact, that we may soon have to install a second.

Worship and Teaching

Our teaching often covers why God's people should be concerned with caring for His Creation, and concern about environmental damage, and how it is affecting the world's most vulnerable, often features in our prayers.



Community Outreach

Our monthly walks are well supported, and give an opportunity for people to engage with nature and each other. Our Parish Magazine, which goes to every household in the parish, has a regular "Eco Corner" feature with either tips or reflections on environmental living.

Lastly, we have been happy to host "Uplyme Climate Community" events such as "Love, Gratitude and Pancakes", "See What's There" nature walk, and the more reflective "Climate Vigil". The church has been a thoughtful space to process the emotions we feel when we see environmental damage and destruction occurring on our planet.

Conclusion

Uplyme Church continues to support and enable God's people to care for God's Creation, to protect the lives of human and non-human creatures, and for future generations to come.