

## **Eco Church report**

It has been two years since St Mary's began its Eco Church journey and it's a pleasure to report that we have now been granted a Bronze Award by A Rocha's Eco Church.

It is a gradual process, moving towards a more environmentally friendly way of doing things and there is always more that we can do – in church and at home. But it is good to look back and see what we have achieved over the past year.

The Eco Church group has met several times to talk through the process and the different projects.

We celebrated our second Environment Sunday in October last year and Alan preached a beautiful sermon on 'Rewilding'. We held an exhibition in the church at the same time, focusing on how to make space for nature, including examples of creating habitats in back gardens, as well as camera trap photos showing just what wild species are living around us.

Staff from Hertford Prep have been over to talk about getting the children involved with building a bug hotel in the churchyard. We've also got plans to install a refugium – a slow worm habitat – in the lower churchyard.

With one of our gas boilers out of action, we have been looking at a range of different and more environmentally friendly options, including solar panels and electricity from renewable sources.

We have made good links with Hertford Churches Together Eco Church group – this has been a great source of support and information sharing.

We have updated the Churchyard Reflections Trail on the website to make it more attractive and easier to use.

There are more plans in the pipeline as we go forward in the next year, including an art exhibition on the theme of nature and the possibility of swift boxes on the tower.

Rachel Carter April 2026