



Holy Trinity St Mary's

Dear Friends,

Eco Church

Holy Trinity Church, Guildford, has been granted a Gold Eco Church Award by A Rocha UK. We are now the 23rd Gold Awarded Eco Church in England and Wales. Well done to everyone involved in reaching this significant milestone! Our thanks go to David Uzzell for leading the work on this.

*The Holy Trinity Eco Group has been working hard since 2016, exploring the different ways in which we can reduce our environmental impact as well as making the spaces around the church attractive to wildlife and places of rest and contemplation in the centre of a bustling town. We are always looking for more people to join us and help create and promote a both more carbon-free church and community. If you would like to be actively involved in the Eco Group or have ideas as to how we can make Eco Church a success, please **contact David Uzzell.***

Eco Church assesses progress, attitudes and achievements under 5 categories: Worship and Teaching, Buildings, Land, Community and Global Engagement and Lifestyle. When they visited us last month, they noted the work with young children and youth (who are often themselves leaders on Eco projects in their schools). They valued that, when major works have been done on our buildings, energy saving features have been incorporated whenever possible (though there is further to go – see below).

The work in the churchyards was praised, especially the thorough work auditing the birds, bees and flowers. They were glad to hear about the surveys that have been undertaken within our own congregations, noting that people have different motivations for taking the environment seriously.



You can learn more about Eco Church [here](#). The full set of criteria for an award can be found [here](#). Have a look at the [supporting evidence](#) we supplied (which supplements the [specific questions](#) asked by Eco Church).

The report from Eco Church said:

"Highlights: It's been great to see how green principles are integrated into the Church's DNA and that the 'Act Local and Think Global' is clearly evident in all that you seek to do to love and serve the local community. We understand that you are a church that is keen to not just celebrate God's creation on one

Sunday but throughout the year as a key part of your church community. Your aim of helping all people to understand what it means to be living in God's creation is so clear and especially how you can help them be change agents themselves.

It was so encouraging to hear more about how you work in collaboration with other groups in Guildford. It was wonderful to see that your role as the Eco Champion Church for Guildford Deanery is another way for you to shine brightly as a beacon for what other churches can do to care for creation.

We recognised the wealth of experience and knowledge your church Eco team often through the challenges you have worked through particularly on the buildings side.

It will be good to explore how your passion and care for the environment is evident as people walk through the doors of your church. We chatted about a visible log of all the nature you've seen in the church yard as just one example. We also suggested how the many different groups from the local community are made aware of the environmental policies as users and hirers of your church space. Perhaps this could be put into writing and form part of the hiring agreement."

A stage on the journey

Since the beginning of our engagement with Eco Church, we have wanted to encourage other churches to do what they can, in their locality and within their own context, to promote delight in God's creation and respect for our fragile environment. So, this award will, I trust, be an encouragement to others (as well as ourselves), especially as many small manageable steps are needed for a long journey.

At the time of assessment, we were totally up front about the difficulties we have been having with improving the windows in the Trinity Centre. The desire to install double glazing there has not gone away – working with the planning department of the Borough Council takes a long time. Also, we acknowledged that the oil boiler in Holy Trinity church will be replaced with much more environmentally friendly technology, when it reaches the end of its natural life. They acknowledged the challenges that we are facing as we care for this Grade 1 listed building, the efforts that we have been making, and the long journey that everyone is on as we move towards becoming carbon-neutral. So, there remain many practical things still to work on.

St Mary's makes its own contribution to this journey

A team has been established at St Mary's to work through the criteria for achieving an Eco Church award there led by Annika Matthews. The Eco Church programme was not able to assess both churches together. If you would like to assist with this at St Mary's, please [be in touch](#).

What can I do now?

- Support Rob Munro, our Property Manager, and all those who look after our buildings in practical ways.
- Pray for Carolyn Graham and others on General Synod, as they seek to persuade and encourage national Church leaders.
- Have confidence that your actions and attitude make a significant difference.
- Read what is already happening in our parish [on our website](#).
- Spend an hour with a churchyard working party (at either church) as we look after "God's acre".
- Encourage young people in their determination and courageous action.

You will have ideas about the next steps that we can take. Please [let us know](#).

– **Robert**

Rector's footnotes

Keep safe

Our duty is to keep ourselves safe, and to do what we can to keep others safe too. Our approach, at worship and other events in the parish, has been to take responsibility wisely, to be sensitive to others, and to recognise that our behaviour will influence our neighbours (for good or ill). We have to balance hope and anxiety, freedom and responsibility, 'making the most of opportunities' with 'not overdoing things'. So I want to remind us that wearing masks is a way of signalling your care for others, as well as protecting ourselves. Hearing you sing hymns in church has been such a boost to my spirits – so has staying well. Being able to share coffee after worship is an expression of friendliness that has been much missed – and we do this carefully.

Worship

On Remembrance Sunday 14th November, we will be welcoming many who do not regularly worship in our churches. I have no control over how many may attend (though we are expecting smaller congregations). Remember that half the service happens at the Castle Grounds (from about 10.30am, after a start at HT at 9.45am); and that there is an Evening Eucharist at 6pm.

New appointment

As you will have heard, we are looking to recruit a Communications Manager. This is an exciting opportunity to contribute in a central way to the life of this parish and its many links with the town community. If you are interested, please [see the Job Description](#). If you wish to apply, please write a letter showing how you are interested in this work, [to the Rector](#). **The deadline for applications is this Monday, November 8th. Interviews will take place from November 15th.** Please pray that we may find the right person to join the administration team, and encourage anyone you know who may be suitable to apply.



Remembrance Service • Charlottesville War Memorial Saturday 13th November at 3pm

Many of you will know that there is a [war memorial](#) to those from the Charlottesville part of Guildford who gave their lives in two world wars. It was placed in the grounds of the mission church that was demolished when Addison Court was built, and now stands near the road. As usual, we will hold a short service of remembrance at the war memorial at 3.00pm on Saturday 13 November. All are welcome to attend, but due to covid restrictions, there will be no access inside the building itself. – *Rod Pierce*



Holy Trinity Church Sitters Lunch Monday 8th November • Trinity Centre

A reminder that if you would like to see how you can assist in keeping the church open and talk to others who do then please [contact a church warden](#) to join our Church Sitters sandwich lunch on Monday 8th November at the Trinity Centre



Open Church • St Mary's Quarry Street

A new initiative called 'Open Church' and organised by Guildford Town Chaplain Rev Noelle Coe will be held the second Friday of each month at St Mary's from 7-9pm. This is designed to be a safe inclusive space. The general vibe of the evening is that people come and leave as they want. Great tea and coffee, board games, prayer spaces, bit of worship, talk on topical subjects with a Christian basis.



Kwasa College fundraising concert, Thursday 11th November at 7pm Live from St Martin in the Fields

Great Sacred Choral Classics from the Choir of St Martin-in-the-Fields. An hour-long sequence of words and music marking St Martin's Patronal Festival and Remembrance Day, led by Revd Dr Sam Wells and directed by Jennifer Sterling.

To watch on the day of the concert and after, [use this link](#).

Kwasa College will be a recipient from donations by those attending in person and online. To donate directly to support Kwasa College you can do so here via the UK partner [West Green Charity](#).

Kwasa College has had a special place in the life of HTSM since the first group of parishioners visited the school in 2008. Located in Springs, 30 miles from Johannesburg in South Africa, the school now provides pre-school and primary education for 356 children. The majority of students are from the poorest environment of the nearby informal settlement of Daggafontein.

Kwasa has continued to flourish during the Covid pandemic under the guidance of the Revd Sharron Dinnie who is a great friend of this parish. Do please follow the Kwasa link [on our website](#) to read more about Kwasa College and the link with Holy Trinity St Mary's. - *Jan Hancock*

Sunday Worship • 7 November 2021 • 3rd before Advent

8am St Mary's BCP Holy Communion • Led by Tom Pote
[At St Mary's & on Zoom](#)

10am Sung Eucharist • Sermon by Tom Pote
Readings: 1 Kings 17.8-16, Hebrews 9.24-28, Mark 12.38-44
[At Holy Trinity & on YouTube](#)

10:30am Sung Holy Communion for All Saints • Sermon by Robert Cotton
Readings: Revelation 7.9-17 and Luke 6.20 - 31
[At St Mary's](#)

6pm Choral Evensong • Sermon by Jonathan Hedgecock
Readings: Isaiah 10.33-11.9 and John 14.1-17
[At Holy Trinity & on YouTube](#)

Midweek Holy Communion • Wednesdays • 12 noon • St Mary's
except for the 2nd Wednesday of the month

Please make sure we have your current contact details.

Contact us by [email](#) or phone:

[Rev Robert Cotton](#) 01483 575489

[Rev Tom Pote](#) 01483 511725

[Parish Office](#) 01483 567716