

## ECO CHURCH REPORT SUMMER 2025

### **Update on progress on our Eco Church Action Plan Towards an A Rocha Gold Award**

**Worship** - The Eco Church Team will co-ordinate a Creation Tide Evensong on Sunday September 7<sup>th</sup>. The Tenants of the King course was led by the team, with 2 additional sessions, see below.

**Land and Environment - A survey of the wildflowers comparing 2021 to 2025** (Extra week of T of the King course) revealed 15 species now compared to 12, but still a low level of flowers in the Old Churchyard, other than 4/5 specific flowers, in May. The trial wildflower garden in the new churchyard has lots of poppies! We are trying very hard to make the cutting regimes in the Old Churchyard more varied, but timing cuts is proving a challenge. Peter Hodge has been a HUGE help to our gardeners painstakingly removing the invasive 'wild garlic' bulbs. This will be a 2/3year project.

We will reposition bird boxes, increase the habitat for hedgehogs and add camera to hedgehog hotel by autumn. Scything training to be undertaken as planned in time for the long grass removal late August. Title: Scything Saturday with Cider! (ie afterwards!)

**Building and Energy** - we will explore measuring water usage and reduce where viable. RC to check with CWs timing of floodlights and spotlights along paths and record the policy

**Community and Global** - Good progress, with 3 Eco team members leading Steering Group of the Repair Café, which has held 2 successful sessions in the Parish Council offices. 3 Eco Talks for the Autumn now in hand **Confirmed 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday 7.30 in Church Room: Sept 11<sup>th</sup>, Oct 9, Nov 13.**

**Sept: Encouraging garden animal life and birds in Gardens:**

**Oct: Ethical travel and holidays for all ages.**

**Nov: Wildflowers and bugs.**

**Life-Styles** Tenants of the King course ended with the challenge of getting at least 50 members of the church doing their Carbon Footprint on the display in the Church Room, and taking it to the Repair Café. A Trip to Lovebrook Farm for MU members, congregation and other contacts to be explored by RC. (Rogation Sunday update?) Considered a specific Sunday reducing the number of cars to church: RC to do a count of average number of cars currently.

**Parish Environmental Support Group: RC and CW Anne Franklin,** met Graham Martin in church to share our experience of all electric and heated pew cushions and issues arising. RC has completed Carbon Literacy Training Course.

Report compiled by Rosemary Colebourn, Eco Church co-ordinator