



Since the last Eco Church Magazine article, we have, as I hope many of you know, been awarded a Silver Eco Church Award. However, this does not mean we can now rest on our laurels – at the very least we have to maintain what we have been doing but, ideally, we need to continue to take further action to lessen our impact on the environment and set a target of applying for a Gold award in two to three years' time – this will be a challenging task and we need to start planning for that now.

Eco Church awards are assessed in the following five categories; we must achieve Gold in each category to receive a Gold award (or Silver in each category if we wish to maintain our Silver award):

- **Worship and Teaching**
Embedding creation care in worship, prayer and learning
- **Buildings**
Finding energy efficient and innovative ways to manage our places of worship
- **Land**
Nurturing spaces for people and nature
- **Community and Local Engagement**
Transforming local and global communities and ecosystems
- **Lifestyle**
Living joyfully and sustainably as followers of Christ

Whilst many of us as individuals cannot perhaps have an impact on the first three categories, the last two categories require us all to be involved.

In respect of Community and Local Engagement (taken from the ECO Church website):

The climate and nature crises are profoundly unjust, with the most devastating impacts affecting the poor and vulnerable who have done the least to cause the crisis. We are called to love our neighbour, and so it is our responsibility to them and the places they live, wherever they are, to demonstrate love for people and nature by advocating for a more just world (Micah 6:8). While there is much that we can do as a church body, our impact will be even greater when we work with others to bring about local and global change.

In respect of Lifestyle (taken from the ECO Church website):

We worship a God who loves the earth he created and calls us to care for it. While it's important to take action together as a church, we also have an individual responsibility to take action in our daily lives so that we tread lightly on the earth and use our voices to speak up for nature. This category is about our churches encouraging people to act as individuals and households - integrating creation care into daily lives out of integrity, as an act of worship and obedience to God and as we grow in discipleship.

Margaret Emsley
On behalf of the ECO Church Team