

Eco Church report to POTR APCM – May 2025

Of course, the highlight of 2025 was gaining the Silver Award – a huge thank you to the team – John Hubbard, Jenny Thompson, Martyn Dell, Julie Howe & Bruce Nicole & to those of you in the parish who have supported Eco Church with practical & prayerful help.

The Award did not happen without some frustrations & delays caused by A Rocha, the awarding body, misunderstanding how POTR is set up and works. Many lengthy emails were exchanged over a period of months, to establish with A Rocha that we are one parish, working together, albeit worshipping in four different churches.

The uncertainty of whether POTR was to get the Silver Award or whether we were to going to have to achieve it separately for each church in the parish delayed our programme during 2024. However, a considerable amount of work was done –

- Three successful Toy Bonanzas – the one in November incorporated ideas on how to have a greener Christmas and Christmas activities for children
- One well attended Craft Swap
- A fabulous Creation Care service where our speakers were Emma from Young ACAN & Louise from ACAN.
- Bulb planting & wildflower seed sowing in St Lawrence Churchyard
- First meeting of two members of the Eco Church Team with the Eco Champions at St Lawrence School as they start to work for their Eco Schools Award.
- Completion of LED lighting in our buildings

We are now working on the plan that will enable POTR to achieve the Gold Award – winning the awards is not the reason for following the Eco Church programme – but it helps in embedding Creation Care in everything the parish does. Creation Care in all aspects of our lives is essential in restoring the planet & in obeying God's command to look after his beautiful world.

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Eco Church Team lead