PANSHANGER CHURCH ECO CHURCH NEWSLETTER NO. 4 – SEPTEMBER 2026

Eco Church Five key areas

Worship and teaching.

Buildings and energy.

Land and nature.

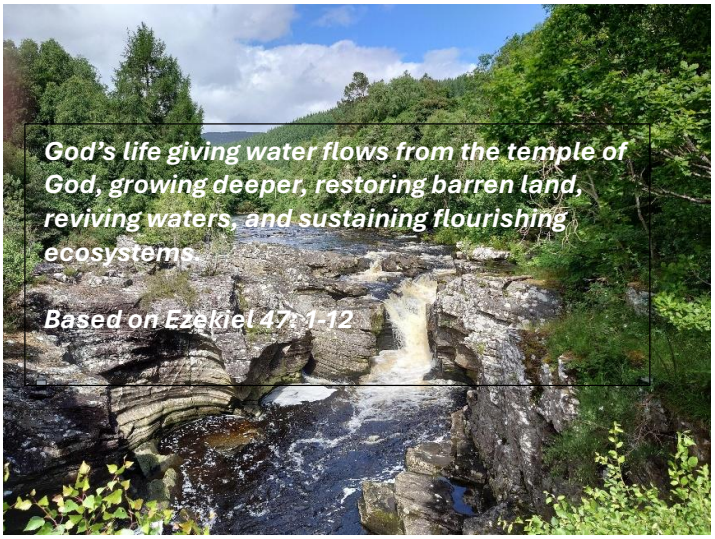
Community and global engagement.

Lifestyle.

Eco badges
We still have a number of free "green" badges to give away.

Would you like to learn more about Eco Church? Please talk to Mark Sheppard

New Chapel With work now underway on our wonderful revitalised chapel, not only will we have a beautiful place of worship, but it should use less energy to heat and light.



News

From the 1st September to the 4th October has been designated "Creationtide – the Season of Creation, dedicated to God as creator and sustainer of all life. The theme of the 2026 event is "living water" based on Ezekiel 47: 1-12.

Whatever the cause of climate change, we must use his living waters wisely, it is essential for life, every living thing. This year our harvests provided lower yields because our temperate isle is becoming hotter and drier. The environment agency reported in September 2026 that despite recent rainfall, every English county south of the Manchester and Yorkshire areas were in drought and north of that line counties are in a prolonged dry spell.

Ten water authorities declared temporary water usage bans this year. The Met office reports that in the spring and summer 2025 river flows were the lowest in over 60 years with the exception of 1976. The past decade was 10 per cent sunnier than the period 1961-1990! What will history say of the hot, dry summer of 2026?



Eco Church information leaflets are still available, please ask Mark Sheppard if you would like one.

God's living water flows within all life

Average body mass % water

Mammals	55% - 65%
Birds	60% - 70%
Fish	70% - 80%
Plants	70% - 90%
Insects	60% - 75%
Reptiles	60% - 70%

God of rain and river,
Of stream and storm,
Of sea and silent pools,
Of waterfall and waterholes,
Of wells and waves,
Of aquifer and aqueducts,

Hear us as we pray,
For water fresh and pure for all.
And guide us to use your water, wisely and well,
Ensuring that all your creation,
Can share in your bounty.

Ruth Williams

Heavenly father creator of all things,
The diamonds that twinkle in the night sky,
The sun reborn with every new day,
Every creature that swims in your waters,
And that flies above land and ocean,
The plants and animals of the land,
From the emerald valleys,
To the hottest sands.

Prayer and Worship



Green Christianity is also about worship, prayer and song. Remember our father in your prayers in this season of creation, for he has given us the living waters, air to breathe and food to sustain us, the sun for light and warmth and the stars above us.

Recycling at Church

We have two bins in the kitchen under the worktop adjacent to the sink. The top bin is for general rubbish that can't be recycled and gets put in the black bin for collection. The bottom bin is for recyclables which are moved to the blue lidded bin for collection.

Soft plastics – are put into the top drawer of the plastic drawer unit by the main door at the kitchen end or in a plastic carrier on a hook above the drawers. These can be taken to one of the community collection points. Anyone who is able to do a run to the recycling points, please ask for more information.

We use the big Green Food Waste bin which is collected every Thursday along with the other rubbish (including teabags and coffee filter papers). We can use the coffee ground in the compost bin in the garden and on the flower beds during spring and summer. Are you able to help putting out the bins for collection? Please ask the elders or council members for more details.

Litter Picking

For those more able bodied regular litter picking outside our church would be a very useful activity. Please speak to Mark for more information.

Activities

Oakland's College – Harvest Festival
12pm – 5pm Saturday 3rd October. Tickets 4 – 6 pounds. Post code AL40JA

Old Hatfield House – Farmers Market - Salisbury Square
20th Sept 10.00am till 2.00pm; 18th October; 15th November, 20th December. So you can come to the church then go to the market afterwards.

WGC Food and Craft Market (outside Debenhams old building)
This takes place on the first and third Saturday of the month with Christmas markets from 28th November 2026.

Oh Lord we thank thee for this creation fashioned by thy hand. Forgive us father for what we have done, and help us to care for and share, your wonderful world.	**WGC Vegan Market at Stonehills Square** Saturday 10th October 10.30am to 4.00pm **RSPB – How to Help Garden Birds: Feed Seasonally, Feed Safely** https://www.rspb.org.uk/whats-happening/news/how-to-help-garden-birds **Merlin Bird ID App** Whether you are in your garden or out walking this phone application listens for bird songs and tells you what birds they are. **Health Walks Hertfordshire Calendar** There are new timetables of free walks online running from September to December 2026. Please contact Mark Sheppard for details.