PANSHANGER CHURCH ECO CHURCH NEWSLETTER – JANUARY 2026

Eco Church Five key areas

Worship and teaching.

Buildings and energy.

Land and nature.

Community and global engagement.

Lifestyle.

Free badges

We have a number of free "green" badges to give away. Please ask Mark Sheppard if you would like one.

Next Eco Church meeting
5th January 2026
19.00 hrs



Introduction to Eco Church

We are all consumers of the Earth's natural resources and so contribute to the resultant waste and pollution that impacts God's creation. Also, global warming, impacts some of the world's poorest communities, agriculture and the planet's ecosystems which affect us all. Eco Church (A Rocha UK) is a project that promotes creation care within the church. It provides a framework for the church to engage with nature and to help protect the environment. Our parent churches have set ambitious targets to become carbon neutral by 2030. Eco Church also means celebrating God's creation in our worship and teaching. We at Panshanger are also embarking on this green Christian journey.

Worship

There are some wonderful uplifting hymns celebrating God's creation. Morning has broken, here I am Lord, all good gifts, for the beauty of the Earth, all things bright and beautiful, are just a few examples, but do you have a favourite? You might notice our services sometimes include a celebration of God's creation, giving thanks and praise or praying for those suffering around the world.

Chapel building work

Aside from giving us a wonderful place to worship, thanks to Nick and Paul, the chapel building plan incorporates installations that will reduce our energy consumption and costs. Chief amongst these is an infrared heating system that is widely considered to be a very efficient way to provide warmth. This system heats people and objects rather than heating the air. Additionally there will be new insulation.

"The nations raged, but your wrath has come, and the time for judging the dead, for rewarding your servants, the prophets and saints and all who fear your name, both small and great, and for destroying those who destroy the Earth" Revelations 10:18

Engaging with God's creation

Small children see nature with a sense of awe. A child may see a buttercup, butterfly or bee as a thing of wonder. They might look up into the sky and imagine the clouds arranging themselves into shapes or animals. One way for adults to re-engage with nature is through walking. Some of you may already be members of the Ramblers Association and there is a Panshanger Church walking group. There is also a scheme called Hertfordshire Healthy Walks, which is completely free and which caters for all ability levels.

We are also looking at how we can get more out of our church garden and perhaps removing the artificial turf. We will give you details of any forthcoming work parties.

Rewilding projects

Can mankind repair the damage he has done to God's creation? After being extinct for 400 years, beavers are returning to rivers across Great Britain. In 2028 it is expected that wild cats, will be reintroduced into the west of England. The red kite, a familiar sight in Herts skies, is another successful reintroduction. Sadly some once common animals are in decline,e.g. the adorable hedgehog and red squirrel. Oddly, hedgehogs do better in an urban setting, so leaving little gaps in garden boundaries creates a hedgehog highway.

While many of our rivers suffer from over abstraction and pollution incidents, rivers that were once biologically dead are now teaming with life. Old father Thames is home to 4000 seals and dolphins too. It is reckoned there are 125 species of fish and even seahorse, salmon and sharks!

Sometimes through the will of God, nature finds its own way and adapts to urban life. Foxes in particular are at home in our towns and cities and although it is an invasive species, the ring-necked parakeet has established itself in the London area and is the most northerly breeding parrot in the world!

What we can do to help care for creation

Remember the good old days of jamboree bags, short trousers in the snow, glass milk bottles and getting a few pennies for returning pop bottles? Well recycling is making a comeback and we will provide more information on recycling in 2026. There are lots of things we can do to reduce our personal carbon footprint, too many to list here, but here are some examples. Switching to LED light bulbs uses 80-90% less energy! Switch off appliances rather than leaving them on standby. Fresh food, fruit and veg sourced locally, saves on transportation and packaging.

If you would like to learn more about any of these subjects, discuss them or become involved please contact Mark Sheppard