PANSHANGER CHURCH ECO CHURCH NEWSLETTER NO. 3 – MAY 2026

Eco Church Five key areas

Worship and teaching.

Buildings and energy.

Land and nature.

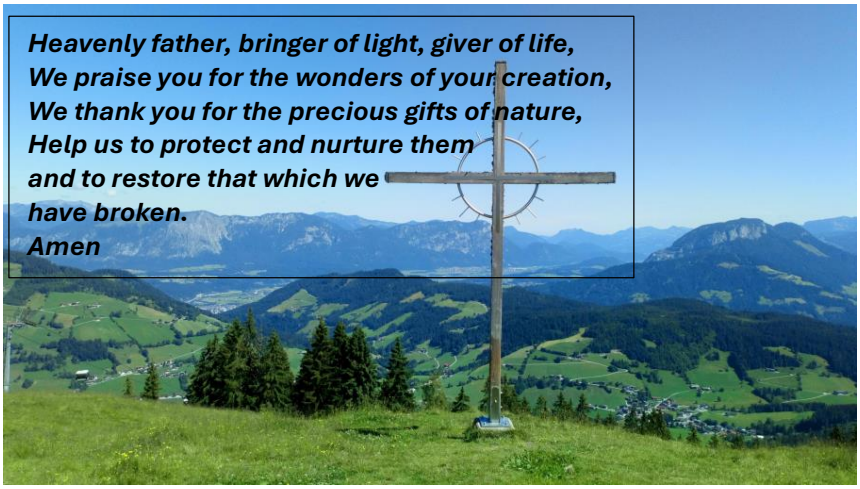
Community and global engagement.

Lifestyle.

Free badges

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

Would you like to learn more about Eco church or suggest things that you think we should do? Then please talk to Mark Sheppard



News

In April I attended the Methodist Eco church forum organised by Stuart Johnson. This is a great way to share ideas and the challenges we face. Other participants are welcome.



Information leaflets have been obtained from Rocha (Eco Church) and can be found in the church entrance and on the noticeboards.

There has been a request for more tangible advice on what members of the congregation can do in practical terms to contribute to environmental conservation. We will seek to provide more information in the future.

Recycling at the Church

Denise has put together the following information about recycling. As with recycling we do at home, we do our best to do the same in 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 the recyclables which then get place in the blue lidded bin for collection. Sometimes the lids of these get muddled up so please do a double check when disposing of anything.

Soft plastics – e.g. all our coffee pouches, cereal box liners, biscuit wrappers etc. 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 the plastic collection point in Morrison's or Sainsbury's. Anyone who shops in these places please do pick them up as it would really help.

As at home we use the big Green Food Waste bin which is collected every Thursday along with the other rubbish. We can put teabags in and the coffee filter papers. We try and use the coffee ground in the compost bin in the back garden and on the flower beds during the spring and summer months but it can get tricky in the winter so this can go into the food waste bin.

Litter Picking

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

Activities

Now spring has arrived, why not participate in some activities that will let you enjoy God's creation? Here are some ideas from the Eco church group.

Hatfield House – Living Crafts show
This event runs until 10th May 2026 and features live demonstrations, workshops and activities.

The Hertfordshire County Show
This will take place at the Showground in Redbourn AL37PT, on Saturday 23rd and Sunday 24th May. There are concession tickets for the under 16s and over 60s, but the tickets are selling fast.

RSPB Wing Tips: What to see in May
International dawn chorus days was on Sunday 3rd May and the RSPB welcomes the return of our summer visitors as well as resident birds e.g. House Martins and Swifts. For more information on what to look out for, please follow this link https://www.rspb.org.uk/birds-and-wildlife/wing-tips/may

Feeding Birds
The RSPB has cited a number of things we can do to reduce disease amongst garden birds including keeping feeders and baths clean as well as what and when to feed. The RSPB on its web site also has tips for helping other animals. For more information please follow this link. https://www.rspb.org.uk/whats-happening/news/how-to-help-garden-birds

Merlin Bird ID App
This is a free application you can install on your phone. Whether you are in your garden or out walking this application listens for bird songs and tells you what birds they are.

Harpenden Lions Club Highland Gathering
This annual Scottish themed family event will take place on 12th July 2026 at Rothamsted Park. Aside from marching bands and Highland activities there are falconry displays and ferret racing.

Prayer and Worship
Green Christianity is also about worship, prayer and song. Remember our father's creation in your prayers for he has given us life, air to breathe, food and water to sustain us, the sun for light and warmth and even the stars above us.

Rewilding Britain
Anyone interested in reading more about projects aimed at rewinding Britain may wish to look at this website.
https://www.rewildingbritain.org.uk/why-rewild/reintroductions-key-species/reintroductions-and-bringing-back-species

Health Walks Hertfordshire Calendar
There are new timetables of free walks online running from May to August 2026. Please contact Mark Sheppard for details.