

## What have we been doing since the building project?

We haven't stood still, content to rest on our laurels!

- We have worked to gain our Bronze Eco Church Award.
- We serve tea and coffee in pottery mugs or glasses, and cold drinks for children in plastic beakers.
- We are a Fair Trade church.
- We have run two Transition Streets courses for groups from the church.
- We have a Sustainability Group that keeps those responsible for the building and its upkeep on their toes as regards sustainability!
- From time to time we produce a Sustainability News flyer, which is given out to members of the congregation.
- So far as is possible, we encourage individual church members to incorporate sustainability into their own daily lives.



*Our garden. This has been a wild flower meadow – maybe it will be again!*



## St Paul's is an Eco Church!

We were the first church in St Albans to receive an Eco Church Bronze Award.

### ***But what exactly makes a church an 'Eco Church'?***

The church has to show that it's caring for God's earth in different areas of its life and work:

- Worship and teaching
- Management of church buildings
- Management of church land
- Community and global engagement

The church completes a detailed survey with questions in these categories and, depending on the resulting scores, may receive an Eco Church award: Bronze, Silver or gold.

Eco Church is an A Rocha UK project, run in partnership with Christian Aid, The Church of England, The Methodist Church and Tearfund. A Rocha is a Christian organization engaging communities in nature conservation.

## So what have we done to be an Eco Church?

For our major building project in 2009-2010, we consciously sought to make the whole building – existing and new parts – as environmentally sustainable as possible.

### Energy

- Did you notice, on the right of the doors as you came into the building, the display to your right? This shows how much electricity we've generated from our solar photovoltaic panels, installed on the hall roof. We can use the electricity they produce and also sell back to the power company when we are generating more than we need. The display also shows how much CO<sub>2</sub> emission we've avoided: over 23 tonnes to date (about 3 tonnes/year). Take a look at the display as you leave!
- Lighting:
  - Most of the lights use energy saving bulbs, which have a greater light output for a lower energy consumption and last 10 to 50 times longer than old-style light bulbs;
  - Some lights can be dimmed, which extends their lifetime even more;
  - Passive Infra-Red (PIR) photocells detect movement and switch off lights when rooms are no longer being used;
  - The lighting in the church itself is zoned, so that it can be switched on only in the areas where it's needed.
- Windows in the new extension are double-glazed; existing windows are secondary glazed (with frames to match the existing windows, so that the external appearance is preserved).
- Our central heating is energy efficient too as our boilers are high efficiency condensing type and the control system regulates both timing and temperature independently in all the different zones, so we do not heat areas we are not using. Underfloor heating in some of the new areas uses less energy to achieve comfortable temperatures. Thermostatically controlled radiator valves also make sure we do not overheat individual rooms.
- We investigated installing a biomass boiler but unfortunately access for deliveries of fuel was not practical.
- Existing walls and some ceilings (notably in the Large Hall) were lined with insulated board; all new walls were cavity insulated.

### Materials

- We retained the existing halls rather than replacing them with new build, thus reducing the amount of new building material required.
- We reused existing materials for hardcore, e.g. for the concourse floor.
- Enviroblock (80% minimum recycled/secondary aggregate content) was used for new internal walls.
- Tirex, consisting largely of recycled tyres, was used for the entrance matting.
- Carpets and carpet tiles have recycled content: in the main church the carpet is at least 25% recycled, in some areas it's 40%.
- The flooring in the large hall and elsewhere is Marmoleum: this is made from natural materials such as linseed oil, wood flour, rosin and jute which are renewable resources and do not contain oil based products.
- Even the noticeboards are 100% recycled newsprint!

### Lighting

Natural lighting through the Coxdomes in the concourse and elsewhere provides daylight at all times – even on cloudy days. They also greatly enhance the atmosphere in the concourse.

### Grounds

- We've had our own wild flower meadow, between the car park and the entrance! Hopefully we'll have this again.
- The car park is made of Formpave blocks, which allow water to permeate between them and reduce run off from the site.
- We have bike racks immediately outside the front door, to encourage folk to cycle to Church.

### Other

- We use natural ventilation where possible. In the toilets, forced ventilation is regulated by PIR detectors and will only function when the area is in use.
- We have recycling bins around the building; separate bins for paper/card and for other recyclables.