

## Environmental updates and news

21<sup>st</sup> September, 2021

- 1. Hope for Creation Video** and other resources for Creationtide  
Inspire your congregations to care for creation with this new five-minute video filmed especially for churches to use during Creationtide.  
Further resources for prayer and study, useful contacts, sources of information and a comprehensive list of events taking place in the weeks before COP26 can be found in the Environment Resources guide and on the [Creationtide website](#)
- 2. Energy Footprint Tool deadline approaching 30<sup>th</sup> September**  
Monitoring your energy data will improve your parish's energy efficiency and contribute valuable data for the Church of England statistics team. Please complete by September 30<sup>th</sup>.  
Further information [here](#)
- 3. Historic joint statement from world Christian leaders** released 21<sup>st</sup> September  
This year, as part of the launch of the Season of Creation, Pope Francis, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, and Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury, issued a [historic joint statement](#) calling on all Christians and their communities to address the “unprecedented threat of climate change and environmental degradation.” Read the [full statement](#) and find out how churches across the world are responding to this call to action [here](#)
- 4. Latest environment news and actions ahead of COP26** can be found in the latest Church of England Environment newsletter.
- 5. Congratulations to St Mary's Eaton Bray**, the latest church in our Diocese to achieve the Bronze Eco Church award. St Mary's registered for the programme at the end of 2019, but when the pandemic struck, they made good use of the lockdown period to review their church activities in each of the five Eco church areas and to identify areas for further work. Below is the magnificent bug hotel constructed in the new wild corner of the churchyard.



- 6. Churches welcome the Camino to COP pilgrimage**  
St Augustine's Church in Dunstable was among the churches in our Diocese who have welcomed the multi-faith group walking from London to Glasgow to raise awareness of the climate crisis. On September 9<sup>th</sup>, St Augustine's welcomed the group with a tasty vegan meal and heard some profound stories of lament and hope for our planet.

Andrew Selous, MP for South West Bedfordshire, attended and, along with others, had the privilege of wearing the Coat of Hopes, a travelling community-created work of performance craft consisting of embroidered panels representing the hopes and experiences of those encountered along the 500 mile route to Glasgow. The next day, a group of year 6 children from St Augustine's Academy, along with other members of the community, joined the walk. They travelled 12 miles to Heath and Reach sharing stories and songs along the way. They too hope for a better world.



Rachel