

## Prayers for the earth

Let all that I am wait quietly before God, for my hope is in him.

*Psalm 62:5*

2023 was quite a good eco-year for All Saints' Springfield.

- In April we were recognised as a Fairtrade Church by The Fairtrade Foundation.
- The results of our questionnaire in October show the progress we are making in living greener lifestyles (see page 10).
- And in November we received our Eco Church Silver Award in recognition of All Saints' efforts to care for God's earth in all aspects of our life together.

But 2023 was *not* a good year for the global environment. The evidence of the worsening climate crisis and nature crisis is there for all to see, yet governments across the world have failed to deliver on their environmental commitments, and in some cases have deliberately weakened them. Without urgent, decisive, coordinated international action, the prospects for our world and our children's future are bleak indeed.

What can we do? As Christians, we are called to hope, which means we are called to pray. Please pray regularly for action to care for God's earth; you may like to use some of the prayers included here.

*Roger McFarland*

Lord of all life,  
you created the universe,  
and gave us this beautiful earth.  
Help us to treasure your gifts  
and to care for the home you have given us.  
**Amen.**

Lord of life and giver of hope,  
forgive us for the damage we are doing to  
your world and its climate.  
Give us the vision and strength of purpose  
to cut our greenhouse gas emissions;  
to consume less and to waste less;  
to care for the environment and all forms  
of life;  
to share the world's resources more fairly;  
and to act now to bring about the changes  
that are essential  
for the world today and for future  
generations.  
May the prayer we make today  
be matched by our faithful actions.  
**Amen.**

We pray for world leaders; that they may  
all work together, through the  
commitments they make and their actions  
to fulfil them, to protect the planet, and  
the whole of God's much-greater-than-  
human creation.

We pray for the world; that our collective  
actions will begin the long process of

repair to the damage we have caused; and that God will help us become more worthy and responsible members of the community of creation.

We pray for our church and local community; that decisions taken in our church life will help us live simply, sustainably and in solidarity with the earth and all life within it.

O God, who calls all people to justice and care for the earth, hear and grant these prayers, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

May our loving God, who created the world and all that is in it, inspire us to delight in our beautiful home, and to live in wonder, peace and joy.

May our living God keep our hearts turned to loving our neighbour and to respecting the creation we share.

May our merciful God help us to live in goodness and hope, and fill us with God's peace. **Amen.**

Before the hills in order stood,  
or earth received her frame,  
from everlasting thou art God,  
to endless years the same.

O God, our help in ages past,  
our hope for years to come,  
be thou our guard while troubles last,  
and our eternal home. **Amen.**

*To find out more or to share your ideas on Eco Church please go to the website [www.allsaintsspringfield.org.uk/church-life/eco-church](http://www.allsaintsspringfield.org.uk/church-life/eco-church) or speak to one of the Eco Church Group – Roger McFarland, Nicky Morecroft, Chris McFarland, Ian Poston, Dave Gauld, Beth Cornish, Ann Salmon.*



*Revd Sally receives All Saints' Eco Church Silver Award from some members of the coordinating group*

## **This month's eco suggestions**

- ☺ Make **one small lifestyle change** in January that will be better for the environment – like changing something you usually eat, or something you buy, or how often you use a car.
- ☺ Try to **do the same next month**, and if you can, in March, April, ..... !