

How I see it

The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands. *Psalm 19:1*

For this month's article we've asked one of our own church community, Karen Cooper, to share with us some of her thoughts and feelings about all things eco ...

How important to you are the environment and the natural world? What do you most enjoy?

These are hugely important to me as that is life. How we breathe, and the trees and plants literally help us do that by producing oxygen and filtering pollutants from the air. They are beautiful too, and I love to walk and take in the peace and quiet and see the differences of the countryside in each season. Each has their own quality. One has to enjoy the smallest pleasures such as plants springing up, or new shoots on trees to put things in perspective sometimes.

Do you have concerns about how the environment is changing in this country and in other parts of the world?

I do have concerns as the environment is changing so much with the extremes of weather that some parts of the country are experiencing. The summers are drier, and the rainfall is heavier, and then more flooding ensues. More needs to be done

to alleviate these year-on-year problems. It is heartening to see advances are being made on this topic, but the cogs seem to move slowly.

Are there things that you do to live a more environment-friendly lifestyle?

I recycle as much as possible. I catch the bus to places or walk whenever I can. I have a water-butt, a compost bin and many bird feeders. I regularly do a litter pick, and as a Scout Leader, we regularly do them with the sections, thereby encouraging the youngsters to look after Springfield. I like to spread the word about the recycling of 'soft plastics' too (crisp packets, biscuit wrappers, bread bags, rinsed out pet food pouches). A lot of the youngsters and their parents were unaware of this, so they bring them to me and I recycle them when I go to the supermarket.

Are you pleased that All Saints is an Eco Church? Has it helped you at all?

I am always pleased when something I am involved with becomes more ecological. There is always more to learn and suggestions offered have been very useful.

Are you hopeful about the future? What message would you like to give to the readers of 'in touch' magazine?

I am hopeful about the future as, in Scouting, it is often the young people who are pushing forward that new ideas are accepted. When doing our programmes for the term, they want more activities that are to do with nature and wildlife, and to look after it too. Some of them are Ambassadors in their schools and are helping to create a positive impact in the community. I find this very heartening. I do believe that if everyone does their bit, they add up to be quite a large piece, and that is definitely making a difference.

Karen Cooper

To find out more or to share your ideas on Eco Church please go to the website www.allsaintspringfield.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, Shirley Duggan.



This month's eco suggestions

- Enjoy **green spaces and wildlife** and take care of them in practical ways
- Pray regularly** for the vital **tree planting programme** in our link diocese of Marsabit in Kenya. *For more info see this link –*
https://treeappeal.com/planting_days/Marsabit_Samburu/Marsabit.html

With Mothering Sunday approaching, here is a **Parent's Dictionary**

Bottle feeding: An opportunity for Dad to get up at 2 am as well.

Family planning: The art of spacing your children the proper distance apart to keep you just on the edge of financial disaster.

Grandparents: The people who think your children are wonderful even though they're sure you're not raising them right.

Independent: How we want our children to be as long as they do everything we say.

Puddle: A small body of water that draws other small bodies wearing dry shoes into it.

Temper tantrums: What you should keep to a minimum so as not to upset the children.
