

Promises, promises

Faithfulness springs forth from the earth.

Psalm 85:11a

At the end of August, Archdeacon Jonathan led a service in All Saints' churchyard to celebrate our Eco Church gold award. During the service we renewed our commitment to care for God's creation. We made individual promises to cut the carbon emissions which are damaging our climate and our planet.

The promises were written on 'hands' and displayed in the church porch throughout the Season of Creation, culminating in our Harvest Festival service on 5th October, where Rev Sally asked us to think about the pledges we had made and how well we were doing at keeping them.

Here are some of the promises that were made in August. Do you recognise yours? How many of these things could you do so as to be more environmentally friendly?



'Save water and electricity'

'I will not use cars when I can use a more sustainable way of travel – walk, cycle'

'Try and buy things with less packaging'

'Eat more veggies – less meat'

'To plant a tree'

'Reuse plastic by making DIYs'

'I will not buy any new clothes, only recycled from the charity shops when needed'

'Share car – reduce emissions'

'Turn off lights when not in use'

'Compost as much food and garden waste as I can, to save on recycling'

'To walk more'

'Reduce plastic waste'

'Grow vegetables'

'Have staycation rather than travel abroad'

'Reduce vehicle carbon – electric car'

'Use less water when I wash my hair'

'Make do and mend'

'Use solar for house energy'

'Plant more seeds'

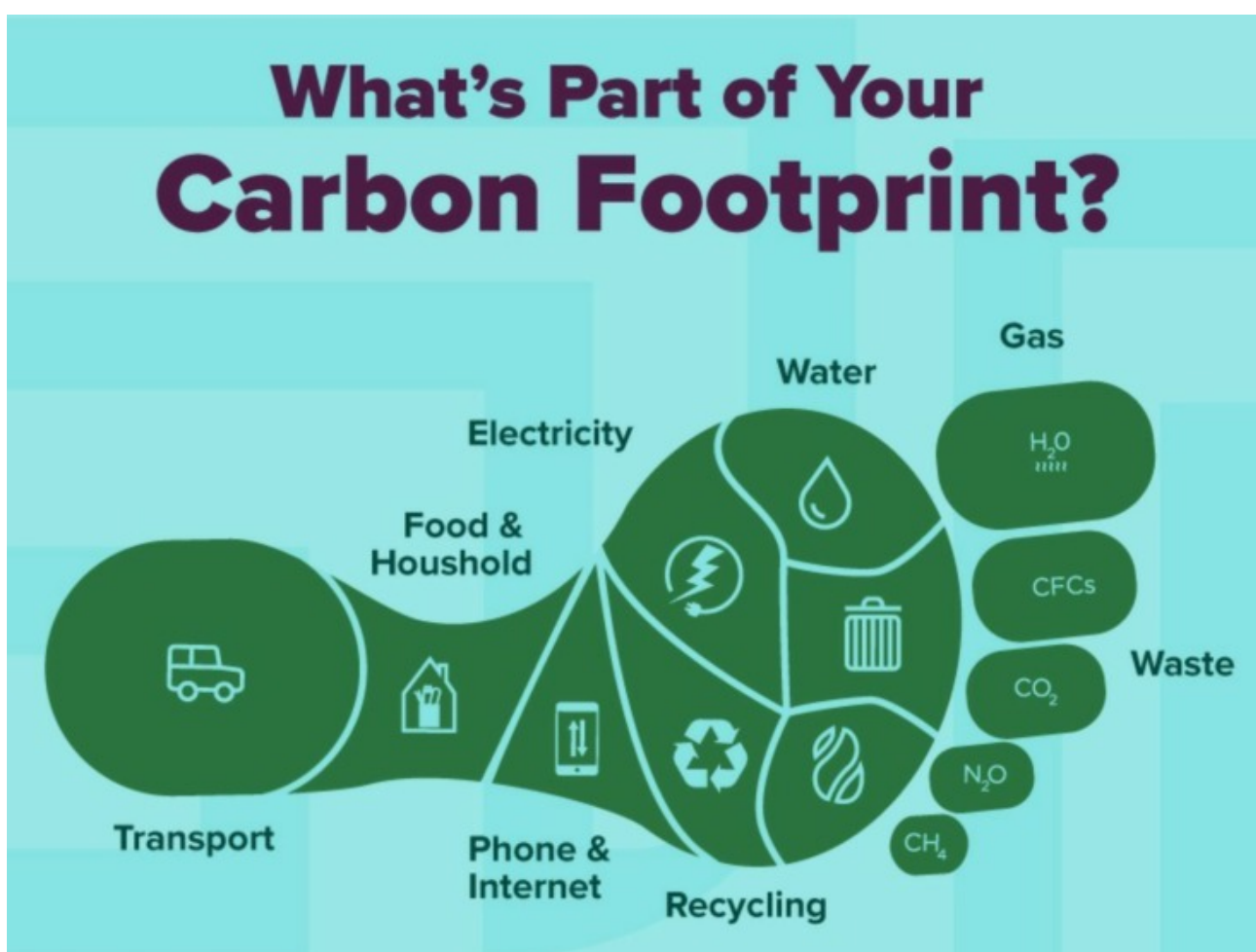
'Reduce the number of bottled and canned drinks that I buy'

'To reduce car journeys into town'

Recycling: Several people made promises about recycling. However, although it's better than putting stuff in the 'black bin', recycling actually *creates* carbon

emissions because of the transport and processing involved. To *reduce* carbon emissions, instead of recycling we need to produce less waste to begin with (e.g. composting, avoid unnecessary packaging, only buy what we really need) and make sure things are used for as long as possible (e.g. Chelmsford Freecycle Network, charity shops, repair not replace).

Roger McFarland



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

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

- Look for opportunities to **share cars** or use **public transport**
- Try to buy things which are **eco-friendly, ethically-produced, and fairly-traded**