

All Saints' Community Garden

Those who till their land will have plenty of food. *Proverbs 12:11a*

Our *Community Garden* is up and growing!

When the Pre-School closed last year, they left behind their garden which consisted of three raised beds and a number of raspberry canes in a large bed.



The garden as it was after the Pre-School closed

At one of our Eco Church group meetings, it was suggested that this area could be developed into a “community garden”. The aim of a community garden is to create a place where people from the church and the local community, who enjoy being outdoors in a relaxing natural space, can have fun growing vegetables, fruits and flowers for themselves and the community to enjoy. It's good healthy exercise, good for the environment, and good for the soul!

We asked for volunteers to help with the project, and we were delighted that several people from All Saints' Connect Café said they were keen to get involved.

At our first meeting, in March, we decided

that we needed to clear the site, replace some of the old raised beds and add a new one, as well as replanting some of the many raspberry canes. We also thought that Thursday afternoon would be a good time for us all to meet up each week, so that we could work on the garden and then still have time to enjoy a cup of tea and cake in Connect Café afterwards.



New raised beds were made

Thanks to a very generous donation, in April we were able to purchase three new raised bed kits, which were expertly assembled by one of the group. These were placed in position and filled using chippings and compost produced by the churchyard gardening team's efforts, completed with new compost added on top.

Now the fun begins! What shall we grow?

As the site is south-facing it does get good sunlight despite the overhanging trees.

We came up with a range of fruits, vegetables and flowers that were relatively easy to grow and which would need little maintenance apart from watering in dry weather.



Planting under way in late April

So in late April we planted broad beans, French beans, strawberries and sweet peas, as well as moving the raspberries to a new bed. And in late May we added tomatoes, sweet corn, and courgettes. This is our first year so it is all a bit of an experiment, and so far it has been a success. Generally we spend a short time every week just watering and weeding at the moment, but we are looking forward to the harvest!



If you or anyone you know would like to join us, we would welcome new people in our friendly group. Just turn up on a Thursday at 2pm and you will find us near the tool shed at the back of the church.

Everything seems to be growing well in the community garden. I am writing this article in the middle of June, with the sweet peas already in flower – and I have tasted my first raspberry of the season!

Chris McFarland

This month's eco suggestions

- Think about **volunteering** to care for local green spaces and the environment
- **Use energy efficiently** for heating, lighting and electrical items, and use **LED light bulbs**

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.

All Saints' Community Garden growing well in June