

# 2024 Green Lifestyle Questionnaire Results

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Thank you to the 72 people who filled in our third annual eco questionnaire in the autumn. There was a good range of responses from people who come to services in the church, Sunday Special, and Children-in-Church, plus a few from people who are connected with the church through online services or in other ways (e.g. as magazine readers). Here are the results ...

## Using Energy

- Most people try to save energy at home, and use LED bulbs in some or all of their lights.
- 24% buy their electricity on a renewable tariff (fewer than in the 2023 questionnaire) – but 28% don't know whether their tariff is green. 7% have solar panels.

## Reduce, Re-use, Recycle

- Everyone tries to reduce, re-use or recycle their waste – 92% always and 8% sometimes.

## Getting Around

- About half usually walk or cycle to church services and events.
- Car ownership is quite high – 54% of households have one car, and 29% have two or more cars.
- Three quarters of those with cars try to reduce their car use when they can (an increase from 2023), and most of the others do this sometimes.
- 17% have electric and/or hybrid cars (slightly fewer than in the 2023 survey).
- Car ownership is higher among younger people, and they are less likely to walk or cycle to church.

## Caring for the Environment

- Everyone enjoys visiting green spaces and being in the countryside.
- 79% are interested in the natural world and how they can help wildlife, and the rest generally say they are interested sometimes.
- 82% of those with a garden have some elements to make it more wildlife-friendly, and nearly half have most of what's needed.
- 23% are regularly involved with activities to help the environment, and another 30% are involved sometimes (more than in 2023).

## Eating Well

- Two-thirds try to buy British/locally-grown or organic food, and another 15% do this sometimes.

- 44% like to buy Fairtrade goods where possible, with a further 50% doing this sometimes (an increase on 2023).
- 33% have changed their diet to eat less meat and dairy products, with another 40% doing this sometimes.

### **And more ...**

- 87% see living a 'green' lifestyle as an important part of their Christian faith.
- Nearly half support a charity which cares for the environment.
- 28% have some or all of their banking or savings accounts with ethical organisations which generally don't fund activities which harm the environment – but 61% don't know whether their providers are ethical.
- 17% have measured their 'environmental footprint' in the last year.

It's good to see the progress we are making in living greener lifestyles, as well as the ways we can go further in caring for God's world. Several responses included additional comments which the Eco Church Group will consider carefully.

If you are interested, and have Internet access, there are previous '*in touch*' articles on the church website about ethical banking and savings (May 2023), and how to check your environmental footprint (October 2023). Go to the Church Life – Eco Church page and scroll to the bottom to find the articles, or use these quick links: <https://shorturl.at/DYB6Q>, and <https://shorturl.at/jKt61>.

*Roger McFarland*

## **Women's Fellowship**

Even though Doreen has sadly been in hospital with a broken hip and shoulder, she managed to organize with the social committee a wonderful Christmas lunch – she had also made each one of us a cracker and card.

Roger McFarland kindly stepped in to take our traditional carol service and Gina accompanied a selection of our favourites on the piano. After opening prayers and 'Once in Royal David's City', Roger read an engaging poem which told the nativity story from Joseph's point of view. This was followed by more carols and Bible readings telling the story of Jesus' birth. Teas, coffees and mince pies rounded off a very enjoyable afternoon.



Our first meeting in January (9th) will be taken by Peter Balls giving us his testimony. There will also be a bring and buy stall to help raise funds for the Fellowship.

*Mary Bartlam*