

Celebrating St Saviours Gold Eco Church Award Jan 25



We are thrilled to announce that St Saviours has been awarded the prestigious **Gold Eco Church Award** by A Rocha UK, a Christian environmental charity. This significant achievement reflects our collective commitment to caring for God's creation and making sustainability an integral part of our faith and community life.

The Eco Church Award scheme encourages churches to take meaningful action across five key areas: worship and teaching, management of church buildings, land use, community engagement, and individual lifestyles. Achieving Gold represents the highest level of recognition, and we couldn't be prouder to share this news with you!

What Does This Award Mean?

Receiving the Gold Eco Church Award signifies that our church takes caring for the environment very seriously. From switching to renewable energy and reducing our carbon footprint, to encouraging biodiversity in our church grounds and incorporating eco-themes into our services, every step has been driven by a shared sense of stewardship for God's creation.

Here are just a few examples of what we've done to achieve this award:

- **Worship and Teaching:** We regularly include prayers and reflections on environmental care in our services and try and highlight in all we do our role in caring for the earth. Periodically we organise reflective "Walk for Creation" out in the forest.
- **Sustainable Buildings:** The church now runs on 100% renewable energy, with efficient LED lighting installed throughout.
- **Churchyard for Wildlife:** Our churchyard has become much more wildlife friendly. Greener Brockenhurst's Making Space for Nature team have helped us to plant wildflowers, create bug hotels, and install more bird and bat boxes to support biodiversity.
- **Community Engagement:** We've partnered with other local groups, particularly Greener Brockenhurst & St Annes Care for Creation Team to promote green initiatives. Many joint events themed around caring for our world have brought the community together.
- **Eco-Lifestyle Encouragement:** From providing weekly eco tips in our Spotlight News, to annual lent challenges and individual lifestyle survey's, we've supported and encouraged our congregation to make small but impactful changes at home.

Why It Matters

Our faith teaches us that the earth is God's creation—a precious gift entrusted to our care. In a time when environmental challenges feel overwhelming, our Gold Eco Church Award reminds us that we can all make a difference. By acting locally, we contribute to global efforts to combat climate change, protect wildlife, and create a more sustainable future for generations to come.

Thank You to Our Community

This award wouldn't have been possible without the dedication of so many people— our congregation, our enthusiastic Eco Church team, the Making Space for Nature team of Greener Brockenhurst and many in the wider village community who have supported our efforts. Whether you attended an eco-themed service, helped in our wild life area or simply stopped by to admire the wildflowers in the church grounds, you've played a part in this achievement.

What's Next?

Our work doesn't stop here. Caring for creation is a journey, not a destination. In the coming months, we're planning on hosting 2 beehives in our grounds; We're thinking about possible ways of moving away for gas heating altogether for the church; And our thoughts will be turning to what changes we can make up at St Nicholas to further care for creation there.

We also welcome ideas from everyone in the village! If you have suggestions for how we can further our environmental mission, please get in touch.

Together, we can continue to make a positive impact—honouring God, inspiring each other, and caring for our beautiful corner of the world. Thank you for celebrating this achievement with us, and we look forward to working together on the next steps in our journey.

For more information on our eco initiatives or to get involved, please contact echurch@brockenhurstchurch.com or visit <https://brockenhurstchurch.com>.