

Our summers and winters keep getting warmer

- Temperatures of 21.2 C recorded at Kew on February 26, 2019. It was the warmest winter day the UK has ever experienced.
- Milder winters can have detrimental effects on hibernating mammals, migratory birds and flowering plants.



Author Revd James Gilder

Sea levels are rising

- Sea levels are rising at the fastest rate in 3,000 years, an average three millimetres per year.
- Antarctica and Greenland hold enough frozen water to raise global sea levels by about 65 metres if they were to melt completely.



Average wildlife populations have dropped by 60 per cent in just over 40 years

- Insect life appears to have declined even more – perhaps by up to 80%.
- This has a dangerously destabilising effect on ecosystems throughout the world.



There's more carbon dioxide in our atmosphere than any time in human history

- CO2 concentration in 2019 was 415.26 ppm. Pre-industrial levels were 280 ppm. The last time Earth's atmosphere contained this much CO2 was more than three million years ago, when sea levels were several metres higher and trees grew at the South Pole.
- Scientists have warned that carbon dioxide levels higher than 450ppm are likely to lock in catastrophic and irreversible changes.
- Around half of the CO2 emitted since 1750 has been in the last 40 years.



120,000 square kilometres of tropical forest were lost in 2018

- The world's tropical forests are shrinking at the equivalent of 30 football pitches per minute.
- Forest areas are primarily cleared to make way for cattle or agricultural production such as palm oil.



We consumed all of earth's 2019 resources by 29th July 2019

- Earth Overshoot Day is a symbolic date on which humanity's consumption for the year outstrips Earth's capacity to regenerate those resources that year.
- The calculated date is getting earlier each year:
it was 29th July in 2019;
in 1999 it was 29th September.



But we must not give up hope

- Humanity has been given wonderful gifts by God.
- We are good problem solvers.
- However, we have to act now: ignoring this for any longer will be disastrous.
- As Christians, we need to be at the forefront of enacting real change.
- How will we be accountable to future generations if we fail to do so?



Creator God

'The earth is the Lord's and everything in it'

Psalm 24

Author Revd Canon Imogen Nay



'In the beginning- *Genesis 1*

- Humans are created by God along with the rest of Creation
- Humans are created in the image of the divine creator
- They are given dominion over the creatures
- Humans are given plants and fruit to eat as are the animals
- Creation is very good and blessed by God
- God rests on the 7th day



The Fall

Adam and Eve are corrupted and exiled from the Garden of Eden

As a result of their sin they are cursed by God

They are to know pain and death 'you are dust and to dust you shall return'



The First Covenant

- ▶ God sees the wickedness of human-kind and decides to destroy them - people together with animals, creeping things and birds of the air
- ▶ The flood and the first covenant
- ▶ 'This is the sign of the covenant that I make between you and every living creature that is with you' (Gen 9.12)
- ▶ Covenant is established with Noah, his descendants and all living creatures

Abram and the next covenant

- ▶ Abram is called by God
- ▶ God establishes his covenant, in the flesh, with Abram.
- ▶ Abraham gives first 10th of all to God
- ▶ 'I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you. **And I will give to you, and to your offspring after you, the land where you are now an alien, the land of Canaan, for a perpetual holding, and I will be their God.'** (Genesis 17:7-8)
- ▶ Covenant relationship closely tied to the 'gift' of land

The 10 Commandments

- ▶ Weekly Sabbath
- ▶ In Leviticus, this principle is extended to the 7th year sabbath
- ▶ And to the idea of the Year of Jubilee - the 50th year
- ▶ Rest for the people, rest for the land
- ▶ Debts are re-set, rules against enslaving own people, redemption rules
- ▶ 'The land shall not be sold in perpetuity, **for the land is mine**, with me you are but aliens and tenants'. Lev 25.23
- ▶ Leave something for the poor and alien, Lev 23.22

Jesus

- ▶ Jesus fulfills the Law and the Prophets (doesn't abolish them)
- ▶ We must be more righteous than the Pharisees
- ▶ Through Jesus' death and resurrection a 'new covenant' is established
- ▶ Reconciliation with God and restoration for the whole of creation
- ▶ Jesus brings eternal life
- ▶ Is salvation just for human beings?



What have we learned



God is a creator God



We are created in God's image



We are to be responsible for our actions



God is in relationship with humans and *all living things*



God enters into 'covenant' relationships



God gives us the Law to follow



Law has 'gift', 'respect for life' and 'sabbath' as its principles



We are to return to God the first fruits of creation/ tenth principle

Restoration and Re-creation

'On either side of the river is the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month; and the leaves of the trees are for the healing of the nations'.

Rev 22:1-7

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more.

Rev 21.1

'See, I am making all things new' *Rev 21.5*

God's desire to bless...



- ▶ 'There have been extraordinary stories around the world of how the land can be transformed when a community turns to God in repentant prayer and renewed obedience. One of the most remarkable has been from Guatemala, where almost sterile land has been transformed into fertile fields yielding huge vegetables as a local community has turned from crime to Christ.'
- ▶ Dave Bookless, 'Planet Wise How to Care for God's World', p.59,



Eco Church

A Story of Hope

'For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope.' Jer 29.11

Author Revd Canon Imogen Nay

What is Eco-Church?

- A scheme by A Rocha – a Christian environmental charity
- Gives you an easy to use framework to review your ecological impact as a church
- Split into **5 areas**: Buildings, Land, Worship + Teaching, Lifestyle, Community and Global Engagement

New App

- Go to the *A Rocha* Website

<https://arocha.org.uk>

- You can look at the survey
- Download the App-
multiple users

Sample questions – Lifestyle:

- 1. Our church has appointed an individual or group to champion the cause of our church community becoming more environmentally sustainable: *Yes No Need to find out*
- 2. Walking and cycling to church services and events is promoted in our church *Often Occasionally Never Need to find out*
- 3. The reduction of car use is encouraged in our church: *Yes No Need to find out*
- 4. The members of our church receive encouragement to undertake a personal carbon footprint audit: *At least annually Less often Never Need to find out*

3 Award Levels

- **Bronze**
- **Silver**
- **Gold**



- Bronze should be easily achievable by the majority of churches
- Silver involves a bit more commitment
- Gold- is a challenge, but worth it!

St Andrew's Church, Rugby

A Case Study

○ **Leadership**

- Best if coming from the top/ Vicar + PCC buy-in
- Lead Champion

Working Group

- Key volunteer/staff members
- Volunteers with a passion for this area
- Gave each person a section from the Eco Survey to work on, broken down into smaller project areas
- Met monthly to discuss progress



1. Worship *and* teaching

- **Lent Course-** good place to begin!
- Link with the **Diocesan Environment Group**
- Eco tips newsletter/articles – easy to do!
- Creation-tide/Harvest great opportunity to engage- charity collections



Pilgrimage to Assisi – Franciscan Spirituality

Muddy Church Worship



**Muddy Church-
re-thinking children and
family work, small scale,
outside, engaging with
nature, learning together**

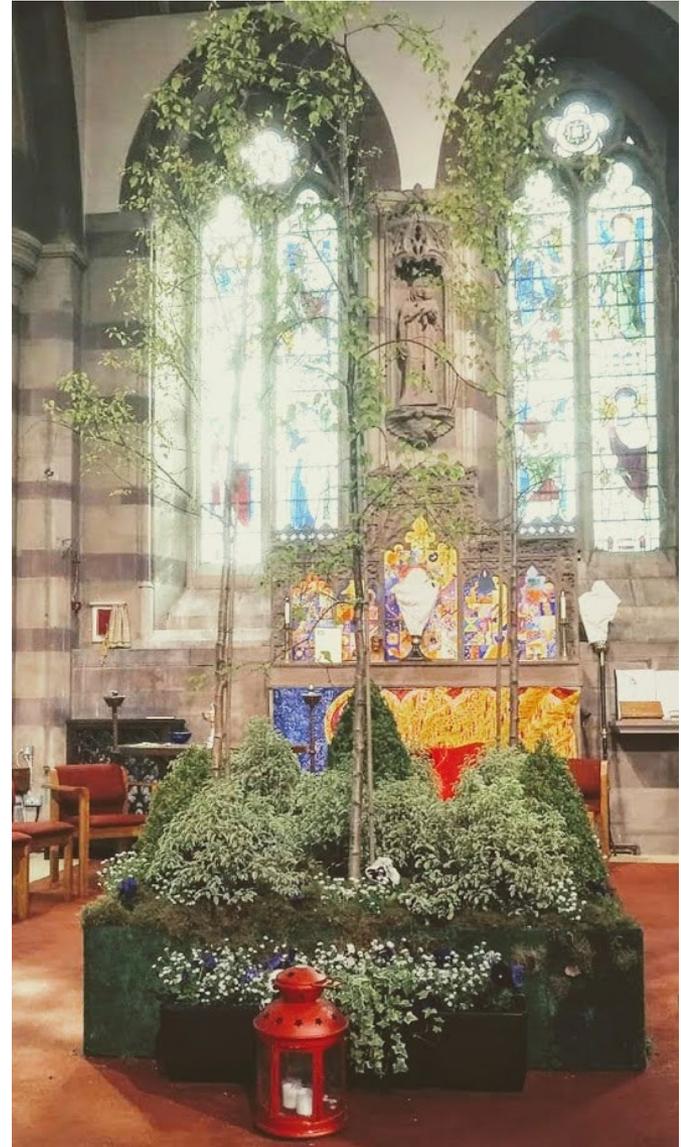


**Planting trees
in the church
garden**

**'Living' Garden
of Gethsemane**



Thinking about St Francis



- We had a lighting project in progress anyway – going over to LED
- Had oil based heating of the church, not possible to change- that's okay
- Moved over to a green electricity supplier and promoted to the congregation
- Consider hall/ vicarage and any other property
- Find out what you can do- take small steps



2. Buildings

What **can** be done, not what can't be done.

Grade 2 listed building*

Zoning the heating in the church

3. Land

- Vital resource
- Can bring great benefits to the local community

What do you have?



- **A closed graveyard-key green space in the town centre, some anti-social behaviour**
- **Rectory Garden – easy to do! compost/bug hotel/wild life area/feeding stations**
- **Larger closed graveyard not immediately round the church, high anti-social behaviour**

The Vision for our Garden

- Green Objectives:
 - Solar powered charging
 - Drinking fountains
 - Improved planting
 - Bee-friendly, neo-nic free
- Eco Brick Chair Project
- Memorial for Garden of Remembrance
- Peace and contemplation
- Events





All Stages

All Categories



St Andrews Gardens a Space for Everyone

Rugby

Transform St Andrew's Church Gardens into a thriving

Overfunding! 100%

£46,572	£46,355	3
pledged	goal	days left



Resources

Project Consultant

- To deliver our Garden Project, from fundraising to completion
- Background in green space design, green living and a passion for this whole area
- Delivered community consultation



Partners:

- Local government
- BID Rugby
- Local people
- Other voluntary groups and churches

Thursday, June 23, 2017 www.rugbyadvertiser.co.uk

Church bids to boost its role in town centre

St Andrew's Church sits at the heart of Rugby - and is now looking to be an even more dynamic focal point for the community in the future.

It has already set about extending its work with a number of new appointments and is now looking to get a clearer view of what people want from it.

Its new mission and vision strategy embraces enhancing its role as a town centre space for worship, prayer and reflection.

But its twin aim is to be a community space which fits in with other plans to bring fresh life to the town centre.

Whatever the controversy over the sale of Church House, the money it generated has already allowed St Andrew's to take on a part-time children's worker, community musician and an events manager.

This will see it linking up with many more people and also putting on a wider range of events at the church.

The money is also allowing the creation of a new room within the church and, crucially for events, a complete



Paper Street Soap Company performing at a past Festival of Culture - the St Andrew's gardens are already well used by town events but the hope is more can be done in future.

overhaul of the lighting and sound.

The hope is also to make more of the church garden, notably to raise the profile of the memorial garden into a place of reconciliation and to adapt the rest of the garden for more community uses than it currently has - more festivals, work with young people, drama, music, craft stalls, family games and more.

The plan is to bid for national funding but feedback on the possibilities is vital.

Rector the Rev Imogen Nay said: "At St Andrew's we'd love to be part of a town effort which makes a big difference to the sense of purpose, the footfall, and the quality of life in the town centre."

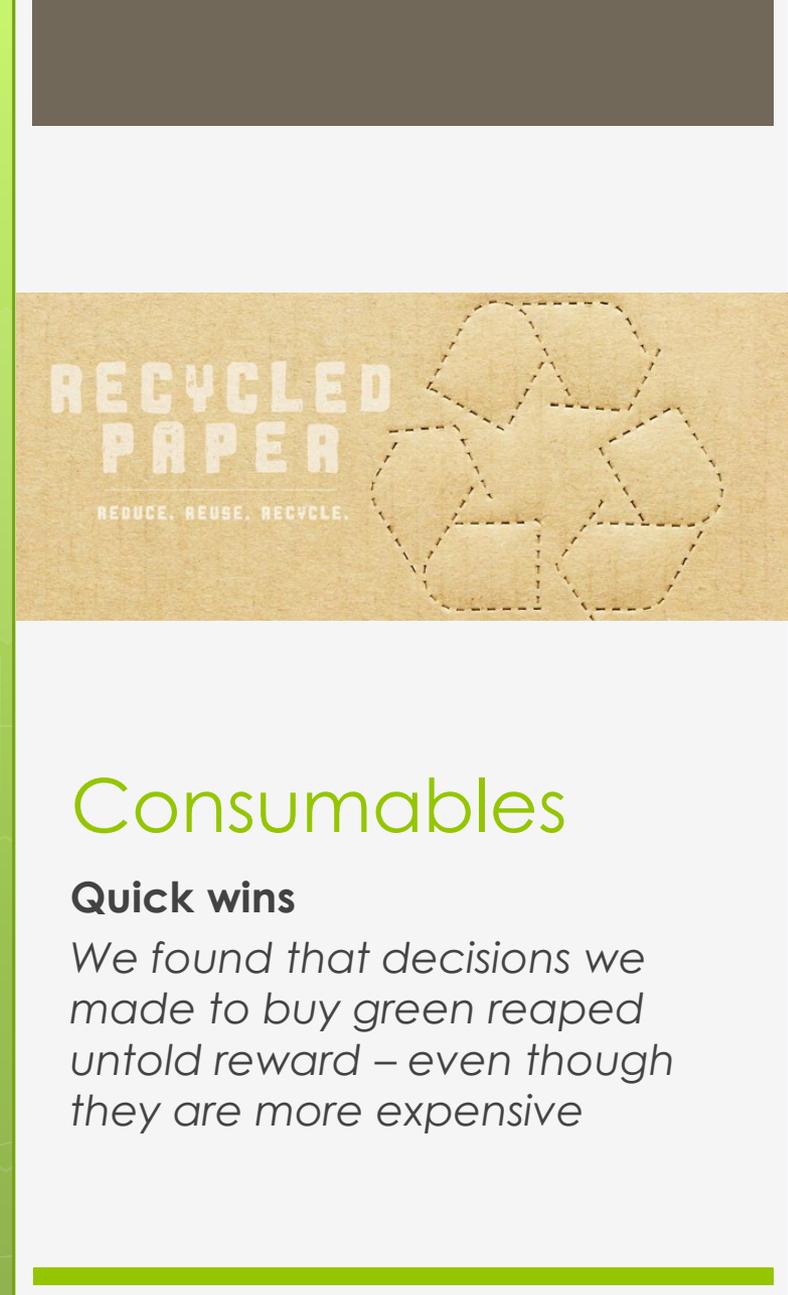
"Please let us know if you'd like to come and see us to discuss how we can do this."

4 +5. Community and Global/Lifestyle

- **Saturday Eco-Fayre**
 - Vegan café
 - Eco Products
 - Demonstrations
 - Recycling info
 - Community hub ideas
 - Folk music
 - Local new 'zero-waste' businesses
 - Diff voluntary groups
 - Promoted milk delivery



- Recycled toilet paper/paper generally
- Green cleaning materials
- Became a hub for recycling in the town centre:
 - Ink cartridges
 - Crisp packets
 - Eco Bricks



Consumables

Quick wins

We found that decisions we made to buy green reaped untold reward – even though they are more expensive

Community/Global + Lifestyle

- Twinned our toilets +encouraged members to do the same.
- Worked with Baptist Church to become 'Toilet Twinned Town' – donated toilets key public figures M.P./Mayor



- Clothes Swap Event
- New bike racks garden project
- Met Christian Aid Lead – campaigns
- Uni Warwick – thermal imaging survey
- Carbon offsetting pilgrimage flights

Summary: Shining a Light

- Great opportunity to demonstrate the Good News of God's love
- Transforming community in practical ways
- Re-imagine worship
- Find key community and business partners
- Be innovative
- Seek opportunities
- Say 'yes' **and....**

Creation as a blessing to enjoy

Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them.

And on the seventh day God ended his work which he had made; and he rested on the seventh day from all his work which he had made.

And God blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it: because that in it he had rested from all his work which God created and made.

Gen 2

