St James's Piccadilly achieves Eco Church Gold Award

Eco Church is a wide-ranging ecumenical partnership project led by Christian conservation charity A Rocha UK. The Eco Church vision is to create a vast network of churches as local centres of environmental care in the community – shining beacons of hope for a brighter environmental future.

St James's is a multi-faceted inner-city church active in social justice and environmental initiatives and is delighted to be the fourth church to have met the Gold standard across all five Eco Church categories since the scheme was launched in 2016.

Worship and Teaching

Awareness of interdependence and care for the planetary environment embedded in liturgy and teaching. Prayer and preaching in weekly and seasonal liturgies, and many special events including outdoor worship, visiting speakers, film screenings, workshops, study groups and Eco Fun Palaces.

Buildings

A carbon neutral site in Piccadilly. Behaviour changes, efficient infrastructure and use of renewable energy sources have resulted in a substantial reduction in carbon footprint to date. Remaining emissions are offset through a Forest Carbon tree planting project.

Land

A vital inner-city habitat for wildlife as well as people in the Southwood Garden. Soil regeneration, pollinator-friendly planting, composting and care for invertebrates, construction of a pond and wetland habitat, and regular citizen science projects all contribute to the life of the garden.

Community and Global

Local to global - outreach and campaigning. Action on food, waste, transport and use of money locally translates into campaigning on global issues and support for initiatives such as Toilet Twinning, Earth Hour and the Pilgrimage to Paris.

Lifestyle

We can all make a difference. Support for individuals and community in putting faith and learning into action through the daily purchasing and lifestyle choices we all make – supporting Fair Trade, animal welfare, responsible travel and food production,.

Ideas and information for other churches on the Eco Church journey are here http://www.sjp.org.uk/ecochurch.html or contact the St James's eco team at churchwardens@sjp.org.uk

New to Eco Church? Find out more here https://ecochurch.arocha.org.uk/