

ECO CHURCH  
Swift Survey 2016

Since gaining our second ECO Award last year the ECO Committee is already preparing for a third award. Throughout our Green Flag activities the Swift Project has played an important part and we are now moving on to the next stage by installing recordings of swift calls in or near the nesting boxes.

Our first award was achieved when four swift nesting boxes were constructed by a group of Third Year Pupils at Kirkintilloch High School led by Claire Kirker, Principal Teacher Design and Technology. This was followed by a “Build a Box” community event in St Mary's car park organised by a team of Mugdock Rangers when eight boxes were made mostly by members of the public who happened to be passing by.

The second award involved fixing the boxes to the walls of the Church Hall. Five of the community-made boxes were erected by East Dunbartonshire Council staff who used a cherry-picker to reach the north wall facing the bypass. The four school-made boxes were fixed by the Fabric Committee to the wall facing Catherine Street.

We hope that the third award will come our way if the swifts use the nesting boxes. The recordings of the swift calls will help the birds to find and explore the boxes. We have applied for a grant from the Community Grant Scheme and if it is awarded the recordings should be installed during the swifts' summer visit.

June McCann  
ECO Committee member