



St.Mary's Church Eco-congregation Report.

Our very first Eco Congregation Service was in October 2011. Since then, thanks to all of you, we have managed to achieve our first and second awards in 2013 and 2015. Members of the Eco Committee are Janice Reid, June McCann, Margaret Pears, Sheena Nicol and Katy Owen and we have started to work towards our third award. One of the Mugdock Rangers, Alan, led us along the Thomas Muir Trail from the Clachan of Campsie to Cadder Church. He gave an interesting and informative historical and ecological commentary of the area. Amazingly we caught sight of a beautiful bright blue kingfisher and believe it or not a lime green parakeet as we walked along the canal bank at Cadder. Watch out for an intimation re. the date of the last leg of this very interesting and easily accessible trail. Please join us if you can. As a quick reminder of what we are about here are the three areas of our church involvement... The Church Community eg recycling and worship, The Local Community, eg The Swift Project involving senior pupils at Kirkintilloch High School and helping to create a new garden at Campsie View Care Home and The World Community eg raising money to support projects in Bangladesh and Malawi. We generally have two Eco Church Services in the year, one in spring and the other in autumn and we try to involve as many of the church organisations as possible. The young people are always eager and willing to produce posters to illustrate our Eco themes and the Flower Circle adorn the sanctuary beautifully with their thoughtful and imaginative flower arrangements. Various speakers have come to talk about aspects of being an Eco congregation. Ewan Gilchrist and Margaret Warnock from Eco Congregation Scotland, Diane Green from Christian Aid, Sally Beaumont who works with asylum seekers and Fiona Leishman who runs the Fair trade stall with Lesley and Sheena. As a church one of our aims is to cut our carbon footprint. Thanks to David Tinto and the Fabric Committee an energy monitor has been installed. Cutting our carbon footprint is not only good for the environment but it also reduces our energy bills. We continue to support farmers in poor countries by buying Fairtrade produce from St. Mary's stall on Sundays and Supermarkets during the week. Since this is a Leap Year Take a Leap is our slogan for 2016. So please try to buy something new or different each week from our willing helpers at the stall. And finally a big Thank you, for all you continue to do. Rev. Katy Owen.