

South Western Synod Green Apostle Report

Report prepared by Robert Weston

- 1) We currently have **48 of our congregations signed up and registered** with Eco Church, demonstrating that they are keen to make changes to reduce their carbon dioxide emissions and to increase biodiversity.
- 2) Currently **30 of our congregations have been awarded Bronze, Silver or Gold** Eco Church Awards. I am aware that other churches have made significant steps towards being eco friendly, some have been so busy that they've neither filled in the survey on Eco Church nor applied for an Award. I would encourage you to register and apply for an award and am willing to support you in this process.
- 3) Out of a total of 94 churches 32% have a Bronze Award, 16% a Silver Award, 1% a Gold Award.
- 4) **Synod Eco Projects**
 - Trinity UM, Barnstaple have installed LED lighting (£1.6k grant awarded)
 - Lavington URC, Bideford has installed secondary glazing (£6k grant awarded))
 - Trinity-Henleaze URC, Bristol are exploring secondary glazing options
 - Templecombe URC, Somerset have installed some double glazed units (£1.7k grant awarded)
 - Thornbury URC, Bristol are having a solar panel installation (£8.5k grant awarded)
 - Plymstock United, Plymouth are exploring solar panel installation options
- 5) **Notes from Green Apostles Meeting on 15 Feb 2025:**
 - Church of England Diocesan Environmental Officers should be able to suggest companies that can carry out energy audits - a number of our churches are looking for energy audits which is commendable
 - One synod is running Eco Roadshow events across their synod, another is hosting a Synod Eco Day. Perhaps we might follow their example, by running a series of roadshows across our synod, which could be alongside other info sharing?
- 6) The application for our **Eco Synod Bronze award is progressing slowly** with some further information being supplied.
- 7) **Net Zero reporting** form from each Synod is to be submitted by 31 March 2025 - to be completed as far as is possible. Providing figures for Eco Church engagement and Eco grants is the easy part. It is hoped that eventually we will be able to gather CO2 emission data from each local church in order to calculate a synod CO2 emission figure, as requested in 2024 General Assembly.