

# ECO CHURCH – GUIDANCE FOR HIRERS

## Introduction

St Andrew's is committed to caring for God's creation. In support of this we participate in A Rocha's Eco Church programme. This provides us with a framework of support and practical action to care for God's earth. Through the action we have taken over the years, we have gained a Silver award and are now working towards Gold. We have also signed up to Cheltenham Zero led by the Borough Council and Vision 21, a local sustainable charity. As users of our church buildings, we would like to encourage you to support us through taking the following actions when using the building:

## Recycle

We provide recycling bins for small quantities of paper, plastic, tins in the Link Gallery outside the Garden Room. If you have larger amounts, please take these home to recycle. We also have a cable recycling box in the Link Gallery provided by Vision 21. This is a good way of disposing of surplus electrical power cables.

## Reuse

We have book and bric-a-brac stalls in the Link Gallery.

## Catering

We'd encourage you to use the LOAF principle (Locally grown, Organic, Animal-friendly, Fairtrade) when buying food and to avoid using disposable plates etc. Any leftover food must be taken away. Please recycle any food waste using your personal food waste bins.

## Reduce our carbon footprint

Energy is the biggest element of our carbon footprint. Please switch lights on only when needed and turn off lights when no longer required. There are adjustable thermostats on the heaters in the Garden Room so please avoid overheating the room and leaving the doors open during the heating season.

You can find our baseline carbon footprint on the Eco Church Noticeboard.

## Garden

You are welcome to use the garden for rest and relaxation. Our Eco team has worked to create flowering lawns, healthy shrubs and trees, encouraging wildlife of all kinds. Our Psalm 23 Garden to the side of the garden room is a space for reflection and contemplation. Visitors are invited to rest, to benefit from the sounds and sights of nature and to be uplifted spiritually. There is an interpretation board explaining the elements of the garden. You will also find display books etc. in the Link Gallery. We would ask that you respect the garden and help us maintain it in a way which enables everyone to enjoy it.

## Reuse

We host a monthly Repair Café on the first Saturday of the month (apart from January) from 10-1 run by Vision 21. If you have an item which no longer works or needs repair, our volunteers may be able to help. The range of items that have been repaired (or sharpened) is large.

## Useful Links

**St Andrew's as an Eco church** - <https://urcnorthcotswolds.org.uk/eco-church/st-andrews/>

**Eco Church** - <https://arocha.org.uk/what-we-do/eco-church/>

**Vision 21** - <http://www.vision21.org.uk/>

**Cheltenham Zero** -

[https://www.cheltenham.gov.uk/info/61/climate\\_and\\_sustainability/1622/climate\\_emergency/5](https://www.cheltenham.gov.uk/info/61/climate_and_sustainability/1622/climate_emergency/5)