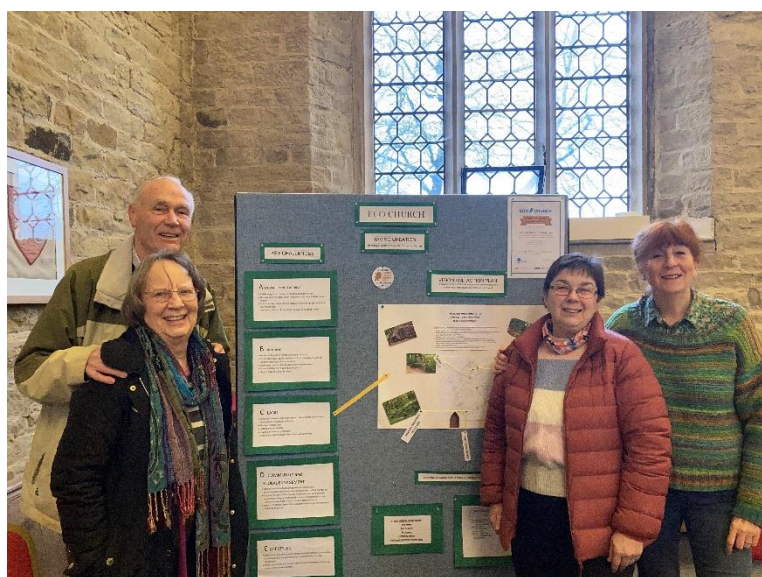


Bronze Award for St. Lucius Church, Farnley Tyas

St Lucius' is a small church with big environmental ambitions which stands in the rural village of Farnley Tyas, four miles from Huddersfield. Earlier this year we were very pleased to announce that we had achieved a Bronze Award under the A Rocha Eco Church Award scheme.

Our recent building development increased the church's capacity for community engagement, such as a weekly community Café, school worship, concerts, and classes.

As part of the Parish of Almondbury with Farnley Tyas, an Eco-church subgroup was established in September 2021, and we launched our initiative through a parish-wide 'Green Communion' service.



Our aim is to meet the Church of England's wish to have its estate at net zero carbon emissions by 2030.

Our first step was to develop a plan for 'Caring for God's Earth' based on the five domains of A Rocha UK's award scheme. A baseline study enabled us to strengthen several of these to achieve their Bronze Award in January.

Four members of our Eco church subgroup next to the Eco-church story board from left to right (back row Brian Mallinson, Linda Alderson and at front Charlotte Mallinson, Cath Ball (Church Warden)).

Allocating a lead for each domain has been important to our success and has shared the responsibility and workload within our group. We have also involved members of the community and the local school, who produced artwork and prayers for our launch, and took part in a Muddy Christingle in the church grounds.

In December an independent advisor assessed our carbon footprint. Their report will help shape plans and address challenges. Recommendations include a more energy-efficient approach to heating, and a land management plan to attract more wildlife and to improve the environment for the community.

Kathryn Hinchliff

Chair of Eco-church subgroup, St Lucius' Church, Farnley Tyas.