

## St Nicolas Church, Bookham PCC Meeting

### Social Responsibility - the new PCC Committee

At the June meeting I identified three areas where I felt an initial look at Social Responsibility might take us as a congregation:

- bulk purchasing and shared use of catering/cleaning supplies from a Fair Trade source
- development of recycling initiatives from things like stamps (which we probably already do) to areas we might not yet have thought about - eg collecting and recycling spectacles and printer cartridges, a "swapping" noticeboard and beyond
- environmental initiatives - building on things we already do (eg the bulb "recycling" box which appeared in the churchyard in late spring asking for pots of bulbs which had flowered which could then be replanted permanently), and moving on to further ideas, possibly eg bird and insect boxes in the churchyard.

### How should we take these ideas forward?

With the PCC's approval I felt that a useful first step might be a series of articles in the Parish Magazine over the next few months aimed at raising awareness of the project, identifying and harnessing the energies and skills of other interested members of the congregation and thus developing the Committee's remit further.

### Eco-congregation Award scheme

Over the summer I have found out about and begun to research something called the Eco-Congregation scheme. This was inaugurated in 2000 under the umbrella of Churches Together and an environmental awareness charity "Going for Green" and it encourages Churches to weave creation care into their life and mission. It can also "enliven Church life and help Churches work with their local communities". The initial stage is registration and an assessment of where we stand at present, and whether or not we went ahead with the whole Award scheme and became a fully fledged Eco-congregation, I think this would be a worthwhile exercise. It is certainly something I feel we should investigate further. Their website is [www.ecocongregation.org](http://www.ecocongregation.org) for those interested in reading more.

Margaret Hibbert October 2004

*NB: Eco-Congregation is an ecumenical programme helping churches make the link between environmental issues and Christian faith, and respond in practical action in the church, in the lives of individuals, and in the local and global community. Although we share most of our resources each Eco-Congregation initiative is responsible for its own website and publications and is not accountable for the content of any of the other initiatives.*



*In England and Wales, Eco-Congregation has given way to Eco Church – A Rocha UK's web-based award scheme for churches who want to demonstrate that the gospel is good news for God's earth. Eco Church shares the same aims as Eco-Congregation.*

*Updated note added Jan 2024*

