



PRESS RELEASE

HIGH STREET CHURCH QUALIFIES FOR ECO AWARDS

St Mary's, Watford's Parish Church on the High Street, has qualified for Bronze and Silver Eco Church awards.

The awards are part of the Church of England's initiative to achieve Net Carbon Zero by 2030. It requires churches to reach a 'green' standard in four areas of its life: worship and teaching, buildings, community and global engagement, and lifestyle. St Mary's has joined a growing number of churches of all denominations who have decided to take action on the climate and biodiversity crises as part of their Christian faith.

The awards were presented by Deputy Mayor, Aga Dychton, on 24 September during a day of events focussed on the climate emergency. She stressed the importance of working in partnership with others for the benefit of the next generation and those poorer countries most affected and said, "It's inspiring to see St Mary's Church take a lead in Watford's climate efforts. Their awards demonstrate how community collaboration aligns with the town's 2030 carbon-neutral goal, as well as with the Church of England's initiative to achieve Net Carbon Zero by the same year."

Further information

The vicar, Rev. Tony Rindl, and the churchwardens, Peter Dean and Eileen Roby, received the awards during the morning service. The congregation then pledged to reduce their personal carbon footprint and to make the lifestyle changes necessary to adapt to climate change.

Members of the church's Climate Emergency Committee had lunch at Pizza Express with local MP Dean Russell to discuss what they could do together to tackle the climate emergency.

In the evening, St Mary's held a service with 65 Christians from twelve churches in and around Watford featuring a panel of guest speakers including Dean Russell MP, local councillor Jennifer Pattinson, Friends of the Earth co-ordinator Anna Addinson and Rachel Johnston, Environment Officer from St Alban's Diocese.

Afterwards, Rev. Rindl said, "The day's been inspirational. Now let's go for Gold!"

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