Trinity Climate Action Prayer Support – Jan, 2025

Dear Supporter,

We submitted our entry for an Eco Church Gold Award last November. And what an entry it was – it was much more detailed and extensive than our Bronze and Silver submissions! It required a lot of work, most wasted if we have to re-submit under the new rules. Now we have to wait patiently for A Rocha to process our entry and send judges to us to confirm our answers.

1.Let us pray that we are able to convince the judges, **face-to-face**, early in the New Year that our entry is good enough to achieve a Gold Eco Church Award under the existing rules.

2.Pray for the Trinity Eco Group to have wisdom (assuming we gain a Gold Award) on **how we should mark the achievement**.

3. **Pray that we will commit the coming year to continue to care for God’s earth.**

I think it will be difficult to continue enthusing people to care for God’s earth without having a specific award to aim for. I could be wrong but we will just have to find out. So, we will need to be guided to envisage some new goals. Some options may become clear with time.

3. Guide us how to proceed with the **Trinity Eco Community Garden** and Britain in Bloom. There will be a big meeting of volunteers on January 14th to discuss the matter and agree the best way forward. Please pray for a good attendance and for the meeting to be successful.

4. Pray for the local Council’s Pest Control rat traps to solve the problem of **rats** eating the birdseed in the birdfeeders in our Community Garden. No seeds. No birds. No “Birdwatch”?

5. Pray for our involvement in the **RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch**, Friday to Sunday, 24th to 26th January, 2025, as individuals and at the Coffee Stop. Give us wisdom what to do.

6. Guide us how to “do” Eco Church in the future. Is it time for a change? (Eccl 3 vs 1 -8).

A 5p charge for plastic bags was first introduced in supermarkets in 2015. Soon after it was reported that plastic bag usage at the main retailers – Asda, Marks and Spencer, Morrisons, Sainsbury’s, The Co-operative Group, Tesco and Waitrose – dropped by more than 98%.

What does this say about people’s attitude to Climate Change? “We’ll change when it hits our pockets” or when the government introduces legislation?

Maybe the best way forward is legislation, but governments are more interested in short term rather than long term results and five years is not a long term. And then their election/re-election needs have to be funded by large organisations, unions or specific rich individuals whose first priority is profit and/or influence rather than climate change.

So, rather than ending with a prayer from Methodist Prayer Handbook, 2020/21, let’s try:-

“God, grant to **our King and his government, to MPs and all in positions of responsibility**, the guidance of Your Spirit. May they never lead the nation wrongly through love of power, desire to please, or unworthy ideals but laying aside all private interests and prejudices keep in mind their responsibility to seek to improve the condition of all mankind; so may your kingdom come and your name be hallowed. Amen.” (House of Commons prayer)

Archie Whymark, Climate Action Champion.