

ST PAUL'S ECO-GROUP
ANNUAL REPORT 2010-2011

Over the last twelve months members of the group have contributed to both The Chichester Diocesan Magazine and the Churches Together in Sussex Magazine. The Chichester Magazine ran a special "green" edition and featured St Paul's as one of the few Eco-congregation churches in Sussex. Alec Gilmore, editor of the Churches Together in Sussex magazine visited members of the group to interview them for his article.

In May we looked at how the new internal fixtures and fittings planned with BOS might reflect our Eco status.

We continued to look at installing a Wood Pellet Boiler and Solar Panels in order to generate our own energy. Members of the group along with James Ellis (church Warden) visited St Peter's, Brockley, London to see their Wood Pellet Boiler. This visit was to enable us to see first hand how the boiler fitted in to a city centre site and to find out what problems they had had.

During the summer the PCC agreed to instruct the Architect, Richard Andrews, to begin informal talks with the planning department about the two micro-generation projects. In January he informed the Fabric Committee that his feeling was that planning permission for the Solar PV panels was probable, however he had been advised that due to the fact that both the church and church wall were listed, plus the fact that it is a residential area, it was unlikely that the council would grant permission for the wood pellet boiler. In the light of his report the group decided to recommend to the PCC that we abandon the wood pellet boiler. We continue to seek funding for the Solar PV panels.

During the visit to Brockley Martin Cooke noticed that they kept bees in the grounds. Following some research by him, and by kind permission of the Church Wardens at St Peter's, two bee hives have been installed in the church yard at Westhampnett. It is hoped to arrange in the near future for the bee keeper who is caring for the hives to give a talk here at St Paul's about his work.

Members of the group along with members of the congregation visited the Recycling Plant at Ford. During their time at the site they were able to see how much of the recycling we all put in our burgundy bins is dealt with. All who made the visit enjoyed it and recommended that further visits should be arranged so that more people could get the chance to see the plant at work.

The collection of milk bottle tops continues. Over the Christmas period we peaked at 11 sacks in one day. As of January 2011 we have raised £470 for the Chestnut Tree Hospice plus saved CDC about £500 in landfill tax.

In September the Mission Group once again held their Eco BBQ.

K Manouch on behalf of Paul's Eco Group