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A CONFESSION – Peter Green



I've been coming to this church since 1972 and until Karen showed me this photo, I had never clapped eyes on the outside wall of the church hall! I wonder if you have?

If you approach the community centre entrance through the car park, keep to the left by the metal fence. Go past the fire escape from rooms 4 and 5 and look right. The photo shows you what you will see. And that will be the site of our wild garden. Is it worth the

bother? Cue Sir David...

SIR DAVID ATTENBOROUGH





The AMC Eco Carer pays tribute to the greatest eco carer of our time, the 100 years young Sir David Attenborough.


His legacy of ground-breaking, jaw-dropping, educational yet entertaining wildlife programmes, leaves us all with a debt of gratitude to him and his amazing camera and production teams.


Here are a few inspiring thoughts linked to Sir David and his BBC nature programmes celebrating wildlife, gardens, and the natural world around us. They also answer the question, ‘Is creating our own wildlife garden worth the bother?’.

 “Every space in Britain must be used to help wildlife.”

 “We need to stop being apart from nature and learn, again, how to be a part of nature.”

 Attenborough’s recent BBC garden series highlights the “remarkable wildlife” living right outside our doors — reminding us that even small gardens can become vital habitats.

 His programmes often show that gardens do not need to be perfectly tidy to support life. Longer grass, native plants, ponds, hedges, and wild corners can all help wildlife thrive.

 Through BBC series exploring British gardens and urban wildlife, Attenborough encourages us to see gardens not just as decoration, but as living ecosystems connected to the wider world.

These ideas remind us that rewilding can begin at home — one flower, one tree, and one small wild space at a time.

UK CHURCHES



Churches can make a significant difference to the UK's target of 30% of land protected for nature by 2030 (30 by 30). Whilst churches like ours have a very limited amount of land surrounding the church building, we can still contribute to biodiversity networks by creating 'stepping stones' for pollinators, birds and other species.

OUR WILD IDEAS – Karen Crussell

Fran and Nick Ayles, Everton Francis, Derek Adams and Peter Green met with me on 16th May to visit the site and share ideas. Guided by a brief agreed with the property team and church treasurer, and by the A Rocha charity's criteria for eco church awards, here is a summary of what we decided to focus on:

1. Planting in four raised beds and large, moveable pots
2. A vertical garden (trellis with Clematis for example)
3. Bird boxes and a log pile
4. A composting area
5. Leaving 'untidy' areas to support over-wintering wildflowers and plants
6. Low hedgerows, no higher than the bottom edge of the hall windows (we already have low hedgerows at the front of the church)
7. Avoiding the use of pesticides within the wild garden, whilst accepting the need for limited use elsewhere, to keep the rest of the building looking cared for.

We will not include hedgehog boxes, and as bats are protected species that could cause problems for us later, we will not provide bat boxes. Other topics discussed need further investigations.



PRACTICALITIES

- **Our plans will provide an estimated 9 square metres of wild garden**
- There will be a named person to sort out any wild garden issues that might arise
- The raised beds will not be higher than the damp proofing course on the church building
- No soil will be in touch with the church walls
- The current tarpaulin and gravel will remain
- We will remove the rubble and tidy up the ground before the raised beds are installed.



Derek Adams with Francis Aylen looking on, appeals for more sturdy garden bags, rubble for the collecting of!



Nick Aylen starts rubble-rousing

- We will make safe the current drop at the boundary fence by means of supporting posts and the positioning of the raised beds
- Ladders and scaffolding for window cleaning and building maintenance can be safely positioned on the raised beds as they will be on top of the existing ground and not deep.

FAMILY FOOTSTEPS



Being a founding member of the wild gardeners, Everton Francis is following in the footsteps of his mum Beattie Francis, who tended the raised beds at the front of the church for umpteen years.

This photo of Beattie graced the front cover of our 2011 annual report!

WE'VE GOT IT

- We can source **organic manure**
- We can source **wildflower seeds**
- We can source **wood chip and well-rotted horse manure**

HAVE YOU GOT IT?



We will greatly appreciate any contributions of:

- Bird boxes (vacant possessions only)
- Empty sturdy garden bags
- Large unwanted pots
- Anything else you think might be useful
- Terrible eco jokes for the next Eco-Cool Corner...

ECO COOL CORNER

(For the next generation of eco carers)

With very hot weather like this May's heatwave becoming more common in the UK, here are some simple eco-friendly tips. They can help you stay safe while caring for nature too.

Stay Cool Safely

- Drink plenty of water throughout the day.
- Wear a hat and light-coloured clothing.
- Try to stay in the shade between 11am and 3pm.
- Use sunscreen to protect your skin.

Help Wildlife

- Put out shallow bowls of water for birds, bees, and hedgehogs.
- Leave some wild areas in gardens for insects to shelter.
- Avoid disturbing nests or wildlife hiding from the heat.

Save Water

- Turn taps off properly.
- Reuse leftover water from drinks to water plants.
- Water gardens in the evening when less water evaporates.

Travel Green

- Walk or cycle short journeys if it is safe and not too hot.
- Use public transport where possible.
- Share lifts to reduce pollution.

Keep Homes Cool Naturally


- Close curtains during the hottest part of the day.
- Open windows early morning or evening when it is cooler.
- Use fans wisely instead of air conditioning where possible.

Enjoy Nature Responsibly


- Visit parks, gardens, or woodland areas safely with adults.
- Do not leave litter behind.
- Never leave glass bottles in grass because they can start fires.


Remember: Small actions can help people, animals, and the planet stay healthier during hot weather

AWFUL ECO JOKES


 Why did the tree go to school? - Because it wanted to branch out.

 Where do fish keep their money? - In a riverbank.

 Why are frogs so happy? - They eat whatever bugs them.

 What did the ocean say to the beach? - Nothing — it just waved.

 Why did the bicycle fall over? - Because it was two-tired.

 What do bees do if they need a ride? - Wait at the buzz stop.

CONTACT INFO



CONTACTS

We'd love to hear from you!

For any wild garden or other eco church questions, comments or ideas, please contact:

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Together we can make our church the bee's knees! ♥

AYLESBURY WELCOME REPAIR CAFE

FREE EVENT

AYLESBURY
TOWN COUNCIL

Eco Inspire on the Cobbles

Sunday 7 June
11am-4pm
Market Square

Aylesbury is going green
this June!

We're shining a spotlight on
sustainable living. From reducing
waste and saving energy, to
supporting wildlife and making
greener choices.

Information, activities
and demonstrations!

#Supportlocal

Bucks
radio
www.bucksradio.co.uk

We'll be with the **Aylesbury Wombles** at **Eco Inspire on the Cobbles on Sunday 7th June 11am-4pm.**

Come and say hello and find out more about repair cafes and how you can be part of the repair revolution!

At the Aylesbury Welcome Repair Cafe on Saturday 23rd May we had 40 items brought in of which 29 were fully repaired, 2 were part repaired and advised on, 2 were diagnosed and advised on, 2 needed more time and 5 were not repairable. Thank you to our sterling team of 16 volunteers - repairers and helpers - who give their time, good company and expertise for free.

See you next month Saturday 27th June at 9.30-12.30, Aylesbury Methodist Church & Centre. Enjoy a cuppa while we fix your stuff.