**Creation Care Report**

Although we have not had meetings of a Creation Care team in the last year, various ideas and projects that have emerged out of an increased awareness of creation, the environment and climate change have been taken forward.

A number of environmentally friendly projects have been progressed by the wardens as explained in their fabric report. In particular:

1. The replacement of the gas central heating in the hall
2. The investigation into installing solar panels on the church roof
3. Various improvements in the churchyard

The churchyard has benefitted from the efforts of David King, Peter Herrick and Sara Simpkins. Sara had led the redesign of the churchyard with a number of environmental improvements such as the log pile, the raised vegetable beds, planting of new shrubs and flowers and the installation of a number of bird boxes. In the summer months an area of the churchyard is not mown to encourage wild flowers and pollinators. We will also be replacing some of the benches this summer to attract people to use the churchyard as a place of peace.

As a church we held a second Green Week in June 2023. Andrew Simpkins gave the Sunday morning talk on Christian Faith and Climate Change and a Green Week booklet was distributed to the congregation with various ideas and actions to help us all live in a more environmentally friendly way.

Andrew and Sara recently met with a member of the newly formed creation care group at the Abbey and were able to share a number of ideas. We have offered to support them as they develop their plans.

Having gained an Eco Church bronze award in 2022, in the coming year we plan to look at how we might go on to achieve a silver award as a church.

Andrew Simpkins