

PRESENTATION FOR BUEN ONLINE SHOWCASE EVENT (12.7.22,

I am Colin Cartwright, Minister of Carey Baptist Church in Hemel Hempstead since 2017. And this is our EcoChurch journey. (1ST SLIDE).

*Carey Baptist Church,
Hemel Hempstead*

- our EcoChurch journey

Between Covid lockdowns we had nothing better to do than to register our church as an EcoChurch. We were aiming, at some point, to become a Bronze Award EcoChurch.

Carey was inspired by two other churches in the CBA. Marshalswick in St Albans and Tring High Street, who had already achieved Bronze and Gold Awards respectively.

Following on from the Church Meeting decision in September 2020 to register as an EcoChurch, we launched a small 'green team' to carry this forward.

We were careful from the outset to celebrate our church's previous 'green credentials'. (2ND SLIDE)



This is a banner made by the church around 20 years ago. Celebrating the diversity of creation and quoting the hymn 'All things bright & beautiful'... This has been proudly displayed and referred to, in order to prove there is nothing new in 'creation spirituality'.

Now, here's what gained us our Bronze EcoChurch award, last year. (3rd SLIDE)



Not much to look at, I know. This is 'Buginham Palace', our Big Bug Hotel in our tiny church garden. Sadly, the sign that went with it has been stolen and the hotel stomped upon. But the bugs still seem to appreciate it and that's what matters !

(4th SLIDE)



More recently we made the most of our church land by seeding small areas of wild flowers in the manse garden and the church garden. You might be able to see these flowers being enjoyed by a passing Bumble Bee.

(5th SLIDE)



Finally, here's one of the members of the 'green team' in action in the church garden. Carey could not have achieved Bronze Award without them. Sadly the 'green team' is now down to three members, including myself, but other church members are getting enthused and getting involved. And just in the last few weeks, Carey has progressed closer to gaining the Silver EcoChurch award, due to some further steps we have taken.

So, here's the top tips from our experience. (6th SLIDE)...

Top tips:

- **Celebrate past eco-commitments**
- **Don't be afraid to start small**
- **Resource and encourage your team**
- **Challenge 'beam me up Scottie theology'**
- **Keep going, keep a GSOH**

Questions... ?