



**Great Big Green Week
8-16 June 2024**

Anthony Rathbone, Eco Church lead at St Mary's writes:

Great Big Green Week, now in its fourth year, is the country's biggest celebration of community action to tackle climate change and protect nature.

I had heard something about the event but had never been directly involved before. That is about to change. For the last year here at St Mary's we have been involving ourselves in the Eco Church project and developing a plan which will help maintain the churchyard as the special place it already is whilst becoming even more friendly to wildlife. We have a lot to celebrate and enjoy right on our doorstep!

We have therefore signed ourselves up to take part in Great Big Green Week 2024. Plans are still being developed but so far we start the week with a litter pick around the churchyard. This will involve the 1st Shoreham Beavers and will probably be on Wed 12th June in the evening.

Then on 16th June, we will be taking part in a unique event called **'Holding Hope Together.'** This will be a response to the way in which the heavy stream of news and information about the state of the Planet can bring us down. The afternoon will therefore offer activities that provide hope in this time of environmental concern with opportunities for adults and children to connect with nature and make new friends.

We are planning a nature trail, plant stalls, 'adopt a tree'...and possibly a picnic with strawberries! If you are an artist, why not bring along your materials, lie under a tree and draw the great canopy above your head? Or if a poet, a notepad and pencil?

Or you can drop inside the church where the Arts Festival will be in full swing. This year's theme is very appropriate...A Special Place!

All these threads will be drawn together at about 3.00 when we join with the unique Gathering Light Choir to sing beneath the trees in powerful harmony.

Come along on 16th June between 2.00 and 3.30 and help us celebrate our Earth and this special place!

If you would like to know more about the event, please contact St Mary's Eco Church Lead, Anthony Rathbone on 07773 363754 or rathbonear@gmail.com

For general information about Great Big Green Week, go to <https://greatbiggreenweek.com/>

To know more about Eco Church, go to <https://ecochurch.arochoa.org.uk/>

