**Eco Group**

Welcome, both to this article and to a New Year now well under way. Our Church’s Eco-Group has not met since last October and our next meeting is not due until this Nexus has gone to press, but, we do have something to report.

Our sub-group has drawn up a working document containing an outline plan for the eco-development of the large area approximately to the west of the church. Much of this needs to be finalised and agreed but we have been able to “crack” ahead with the tidying of the so-called orchard and the adjacent area under the trees. It has been here that most of the Church’s garden waste has been dumped for several years now, and it was not a pretty sight/site.

The writer has separated the waste into 3 distinct piles: compost or compostable; non-compostable; twigs and branches for shredding. This last took place a couple of weeks before Christmas, thanks to the trio of hard-workers who gave huge time and effort to this. Now the remaining piles will be moved to the gated compound behind the church where proper composting facilities have been set up. When this is complete, the whole orchard and adjacent trees area will be raked over ready for planting with more fruit trees, wild flowers and natural plants that can flourish in shade. In the meantime the huge goat willow which hangs over a good part of the orchard will, with the correct permissions from City Council and Church, be severely cut back (pruned), and the resulting wood shredded – what joys await us!

As I write at the beginning of January, there are snowdrops blooming here and there, further

reminders of The Light that has come into the world. Blessings to you all.

Antony Ashwell