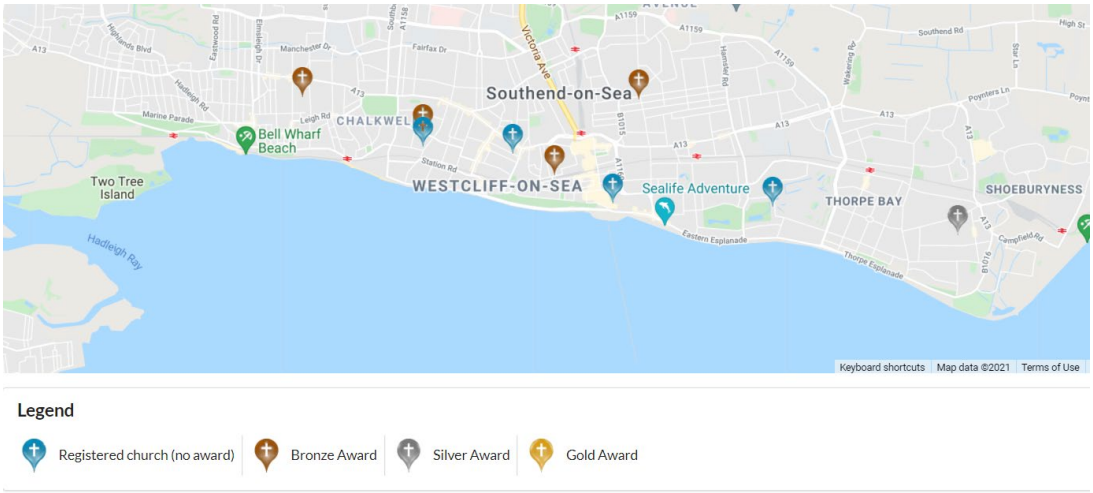
September News from Saint Mark's

Well, I am very excited that we are able to claim our bronze Eco Church award for St Mark's! We can now work towards our Silver and Gold! If you are not sure what this means – it is linked to the work of the Christian environmentalist charity **A Rocha,** and in order to gain our award I had to fill out an online Eco Survey about how we are caring for God's earth in different areas of our church life and work. I started the survey a while back, but was able to complete it the more I looked around at what we were doing, and found we were fulfilling many of the criteria. We still have a long way to go to get to Gold, but it is wonderful to be on our way. My next step is to start using Fairtrade tea and coffee supplies, get eco-friendly loo paper and cleaning products.
The survey takes you through five key areas of church life:

Worship and teaching
Management of church buildings
Management of church land
Community and global engagement
Lifestyle

Eco Church resources are free and they offer lots of advice on their website. It takes a little time and a small amount of research too – but it is worth it to know we are raising our awareness and our voices in support of the environment we have been gifted to steward.

Blessings and Prayers, Mother Cherry