

Annual Gathering 2013

Feedback report



There were seven questions in total ranging from feedback on workshops, catering and venue, and improvement suggestions.

How successful was the Annual Gathering in meeting your expectations?

All 40 respondents thought the gathering was good or excellent. A few commented how impressed they were positive atmosphere, inspiring speakers and useful workshops. One respondent mentioned that the gathering had exceeded their expectations and one said they found it particularly useful to have a focus on food.

Are there ways in which you think the Annual Gathering could have been improved?

Several respondents would have liked more space to sit and eat. Three respondents felt that some of the workshop rooms were too noisy and stuffy. One respondent would have liked more time and another felt the day was too rushed.

What did you think of the lunch/refreshments?

Out of 39 respondents, 37 thought the food was good or excellent. Seven respondents highlighted that they found the food really excellent, with a good selection of vegetarian options. Several respondents highlighted that the lunch queue was too slow and the sandwiches should have been labelled to make the queue move quicker. One respondent also found the way the fruit was served unhygienic.

How successful were the workshops in meeting expectations?

The Global Food Crisis with Dr Neil Hollow

15 out of 17 respondents thought it was good or excellent. One respondent would have liked more details. One respondent thought there would have been greater focus on the world food crisis and felt that the presentation was unenthusiastic.

Funding for environmental projects

13 out of 14 respondents thought it was good or excellent.

Just Eating with Sheena Wurthmann

All 15 respondents thought it was good or excellent.

Enough Food IF with Christian Aid and SCIAF

13 out of 14 respondents thought it was good or excellent. Two respondents felt it was a bit rushed and would like the slide show as there was not enough time to take notes. One respondent suggested that the workshop hosts should have spoken more slowly and clearly.

The Nourish Project with Pete Richie

All 14 respondents though it was good or excellent.

Café Conversations

All 5 respondents thought it was good or excellent. 3 respondents highlighted that this workshop was very useful and inspiring. 2 respondents would have liked more time to exchange ideas.

Do you have any workshop/topic suggestions for next year?

Here is a list of suggestions:

- At least one speaker should be asked to concentrate on “Where we are”
- information on how we can offer assistance on purchasing replacement items such as floor coverings
- Good places, better health - building strong vibrant communities
- How to engage congregations toward Eco-Congregation activities, especially the climate sceptics – 2 respondents
- How to include eco-congregation topics into church services
- Carbon conversations
- Fuel, faith and the energy crisis
- The availability of environmentally friendly cleaning products and why we should use them
- Representative of one of the big supermarkets to tell us how they promote eco-friendly products
- Waste
- Balancing diet between vegetarian and non-vegetarian
- Concentre on how economic growth influences the planet and we can do
- Introduce inspirational case studies

Can you suggest any suitable venues for the Annual Gathering for next year?

St Paul's and St George's in Edinburgh	- 2 respondents
Same venue – Greyfriars Community Project hall	- 2 respondents
Augustine United, George fourth bridge, Edinburgh	
Falkirk Old & St Modan's Parish Church	
Renfield St Stephens on Renfield Street, Glasgow	
Burnside Blairbeth Church on the south side of Glasgow	
Maryhill Community Central Halls in Glasgow	
A property using renewable technologies attained through grant or loan	

Any other comments

The majority of comments were positive highlighting that the day was very worthwhile and inspiring. Eight respondents highlighted the lack of space for lunch and two also mentioned the noise level in this area being too high. One respondent felt the overcrowding contributed to the good atmosphere. Six respondents mentioned specifically that they liked the venue very much and thought it was easy to get to and was well-serviced by public transport. One respondent would have liked easier parking facilities and one respondent mentioned having problems locating the venue and found the timetable unclear. One respondent felt that the slide show used for worship worked well.

All feedback comments about the lunch and the venue have been passed to the Greyfriars Community Project to help them recognise the positives as well as the areas which could be improved.

Thank you to everyone who gave us their feedback. Your helpful suggestions will be used to improve next year's annual gathering and help us target our limited resources.