



East Lothian Eco-Congregation Network

**Notes of meeting at Yester Parish Church, Gifford
11th September 2013**

Present: Barbara Richerby and Diana Mackie (Belhaven Parish Church, Dunbar) Alison Mill Irving (Yester Parish Church, Gifford), Liz Moir (St Martin's Episcopal Church) Trevor Jamison and Margaret Warnock (Eco-Congregation Scotland)

1. The meeting opened with a prayer

2. Network Programme

We agreed to have 3 meetings in 2014:

Monday 3rd March

9th June

Walk in John Muir Country Park / Aberlady

September

tbd

We still need some venues and possible topics for these meetings.

3. Update from Churches

Yester Parish Church, Gifford we were shown the church's innovative biomass boiler, which provides constant heat to the building, keeping it both warm and dry. It is fed by wood pellets, which are bought in bulk and stored at a local farm. The boiler is in a small room at the back of the church and is fed by tipping bags of pellets into an under floor hopper which directly feeds into the boiler on demand. The boiler is stoked every week and it now costs as much to heat the church all week as it did for a few hours on Sundays.

There is interest from the congregation in green issues and a recent eco service was well received but getting people involved in taking action is proving more of a challenge

Belhaven Parish Church, Dunbar have been looking at insulation in the church buildings and are seeking grants through the Landfill Tax Trust, Be Green and Sustaining Dunbar.

St Martin's, Dalry is technically in the Edinburgh network area but were interested to see what is happening in East Lothian. They have an eco group, which has been going for some time and includes a 13 year old. They meet every six weeks and sets targets against which they can measure progress.

They have a very old building, which they are renovating to be a community resource for the Gorgie / Dalry area. This has, in turn, involved major fundraising but has given the opportunity to make the building as energy efficient and green as possible.

They also have a garden and have involved the Sunday School children in planting and their church magazine gives tips for environmentally friendly living and fair trade.

4. **"Looking at the Bible through Green Tinted Lenses"** Trevor then led a Bible study looking at Some Biblical Pictures Relating to Creation and has supplied the following notes:

In the beginning, Genesis 1-2 including

'God saw everything that he had made and indeed it was very good' (1: 31)

'God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.' (1: 29)

The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it.' (2: 15)

And at the end, with the world remade: 'See I am making all things new.' (Revelation 21: 5)

From **flood** (Genesis 9) to **fall** (Romans 5) – former in context where other species a threat to humankind and now it's the other way around

The Psalms, including

'The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it, the world and those who live in it.' (24: 1)

'The heavens are telling the glory of God; and the firmament proclaims his handiwork.' (19: 1)

Also, 104; 136: 5- 9 (which parallels Gen. 1)

Humility and the human place in creation Job 38-42

Jesus, who was 'with the wild beasts' (Mark 1: 13), declaring the kingdom of God, whose nature miracles lead his followers to ask, 'Who then is this, that even the wind and sea obey him.'

Creation, crying out to be set free from futility (Romans 8: 19-23) and reconciled to God through Jesus Christ (Colossians 1: 15-20).

And biblical images of catastrophe - Mark 13 and 2 Peter 3: 10-13

One approach to looking at the Bible through green lenses

- John 3: 16 and the cosmos
- Mark 12: 29-31 – love of God and neighbour – in here and now
- 1 Corinthians 13, with the emphasis on hope – Romans 5: 25; 8: 24