

## ECO-CONGREGATION SCOTLAND

### EARTH HOUR REPORT 2014

130 congregations registered to take part through the Eco-Congregation Scotland web site. Each was given a copy of the booklet prepared by WWF.

All 130 were emailed several times in the run up to the event with encouraging messages.

After Earth Hour we emailed all 130 asking them for feedback on what they had done. This is a summary of what their Earth Hour activities. There is also a report from Eco-Congregation Ireland who promoted it for the first time in Ireland with our support (they have no contact with WWF).

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#### ELGIN ST GILES AND ST COLUMBA'S SOUTH CHURCH

Our church has a prominent position in the High St in Elgin. We asked for the floodlighting there to be turned off for Earth Hour along with the floodlights on other prominent local buildings. The floodlights on the tower and the portico were switched off for Earth Hour. We placed an article in our March church magazine suggesting that members of the congregation could do something to mark Earth Hour. Our local newspaper had a similar article encouraging people to do the same.

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#### ST JOHN'S AND DAIRSIE UNITED PARISH CUPAR

Our church ensured that their outside lights off during the hour. We weren't able to run any particular event this year.

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#### ST MARY'S PARISH CHURCH, KIRKINTILLOCH

This was our first attempt at Earth Hour and was rather rushed! I put several intimations in the Sunday worship sheet asking folks to observe Earth hour by turning out their lights. Similarly I emailed the local churches to do the same...and that's it! Hopefully next year we should be more organised.

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#### FAIRLIE PARISH CHURCH

I am sorry that I do not have any pictures of our Earth Hour get together, perhaps next year. I was struggling to cope with the church's new audio-visual unit, which I managed with a little help from one of the audience.

The attendance was better than previous years; including myself there were twelve. Seven were from Fairlie Church, four were from the Organic Growers and Nigel Lawrie from Clark Memorial, Largs.

After tea and pancakes, we watched 'Chasing Ice', which I feel could have been edited slightly. But what came across was the speed and difference in the thickness of ice over a fairly short period of time. The efforts of the photographers and the team in such hostile conditions were commendable.

I feel that if there was a reasonable, articulate population in these areas, more attention would have been paid when the findings were presented at Copenhagen.

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#### FULLARTON PARISH CHURCH, IRVINE

Our observation of "Earth Hour" was very low key. On the Saturday evening an Alcoholics Anonymous group (which meets on our Church premises) used only candles for light during their meeting. On the Sunday evening we celebrated a Christian version of the Passover Feast. We used candles on the tables but had to use a reduced amount of electric light and power for the use of a lap-top and a data projector and also to be able to see what we were doing. There are no photographs.

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#### MILTON OF CAMPSIE PARISH CHURCH

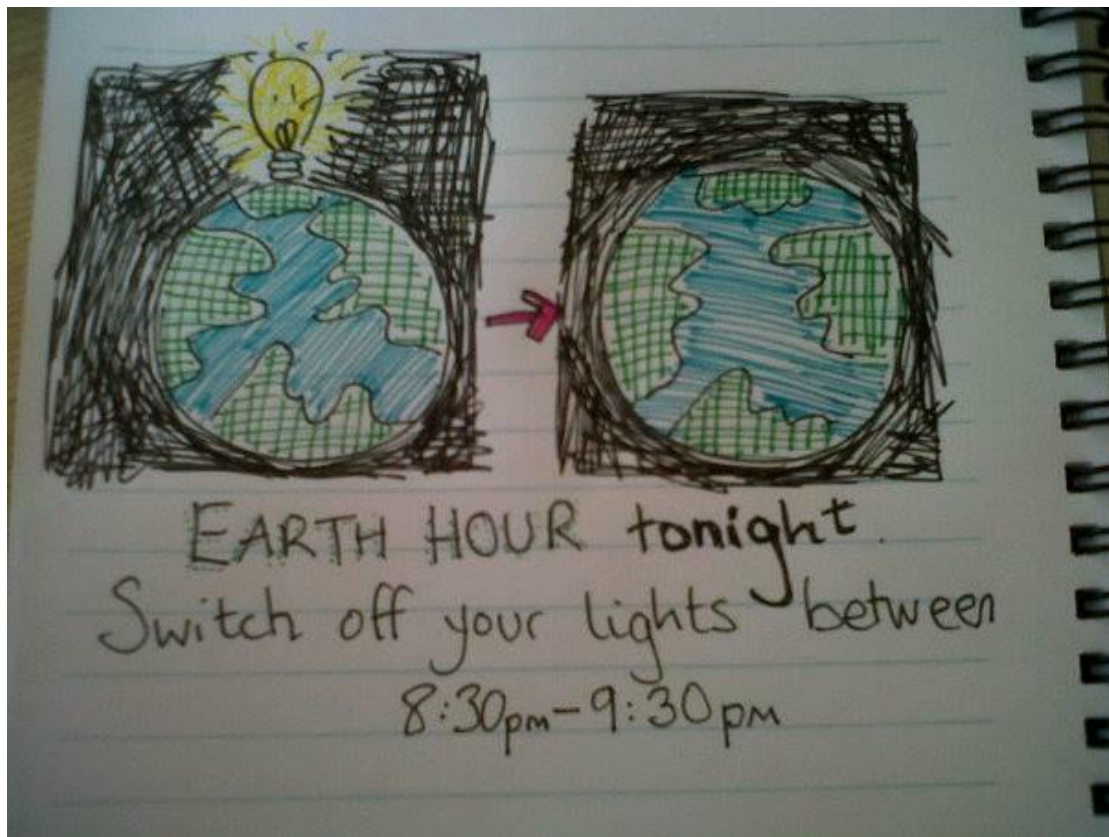
We marked earth Hour by having a stall at our Eco morning, by giving out flyers and night lights and encouraging people to commit to turning lights off by signing their names on an enlarged drawing of a light bulb. This all took place on Saturday 22nd March. On Sunday 23rd March after the church service, everyone who was not at the Eco morning also received a flyer and an night light. I have one photograph of the stall before we opened for 'business' but I do not have the card at present and I don't know how interesting it looks in isolation from all the other stalls but I will send it to you. Thanks for your interest and help and I would be pleased to get the information on Time for Creation. Thanks again.

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#### SELKIRK PARISH CHURCH

Most of our congregation had never heard of Earth Hour. We joined in as one of our Climate Challenge Fund activities.

A paragraph in the newsletter, a poster in the outside noticeboard, a sign-up sheet in the hall, posts on Facebook, an invitation to join in on your own or with friends meant 40 people were involved. We hope to build on this next year.



# Earth Hour

**Switch  
off the  
lights**

60+  
EARTH HOUR

**Saturday  
29<sup>th</sup> March**

**8.30 - 9.30 pm**

**Celebrate  
the planet**

**Sign up**  
**↓ Here**

<p>Anna + David Sothman Anna Sothman Bianca + Kate Gledhill James + Helen Gledhill Margaret Steele Sue Hing Leanne Gledhill Lyle Bell Lisa Gledhill Trevor Bost Tina + Sarah Peden Beverly + (Mrs. + Sarah?) Katherine + (Mrs. + Sarah?)</p>	<p>Join in: on your own or with friends.</p> <p>The following people Anna Sothman Bianca + Kate Gledhill Margaret Steele Lisa Gledhill Lyle Bell Tina Gledhill Trevor Bost Tina + Sarah Peden Beverly + (Mrs. + Sarah?) Katherine + (Mrs. + Sarah?)</p>
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John Nichol  
The DPT's  
Pete Wilson

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## PENICUIK NORTH KIRK

Penicuik North Kirk did indeed mark Earth Hour on Saturday 29th March, with an Earth Hour Drop in Event in the Kirk between 8.30 pm and 10 pm. However, whilst I was there, I was not involved in the actual planning of the event ( as I have been out of circulation for the last couple of months as we are having work done to our house). The planning of the event was down to our Minister, Ruth Halley and others.







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## CHALMERS PARISH CHURCH, LARKHALL

At Chalmers the sanctuary was dimly light with candles , the word hope spelled out on the floor in tea lights

People were encouraged to bring a torch with them too.

We started by watching the short you tube clip of Earth Hour 2014 and then read John 1:1-14 the lights were turned out.

We sang several hymns some without music as we didn't plug in the organ.

At the front we had a great big pile of rubbish. a willing volunteer came and lay on the floor and the children enthusiastically covered them in rubbish (nothing too smelly) We talked about how we care for God's creation and how we thought the world would feel covered in all the rubbish we throw away.

After this I did a short reflection on care of God creation and being steward of the earth. I used this quote Chris Wright in his book *The Mission of God* writes that

"It seems quite inexplicable to me that there are some Christians who claim to love and worship God, to be disciples of Jesus, and yet have no concern for the earth that bears his stamp of ownership. They do not care about the abuse of the earth and indeed, by their wasteful and over-consumptive life-style, they collude in it."

I used the hymn "Beauty for Brokenness" as a prayer (Stella Campbell gave me this idea) but as I prayed people were invited to take a green paper leaf and cover the rubbish pile and brokenness of the world with them in prayer for creation and hope for better and fairer use of its resources.

The children enjoyed clapping and shouting "praise him" as I read psalm 148 every time they heard the words "praise him" although I did add a few more. We finished the night watching and listening to Creation Calls video on you tube, a hymn and Celtic blessing

Oh and after the hour the kettle went on.



The second half of Mark's gospel was formatted as a script to be read radio-play fashion by candlelight. The atmosphere the candles gave made the whole light-out-of-darkness message of the



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#### INVERLEITH ST SERF'S CHURCH

Every member of InverleithSt.Serf's Church was notified about Earth Hour and many commented that they would support the event. No lights were on at the Church premises during that hour.

The poster was placed in a prominent position on our notice board where all hall users could see it.

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#### CARNOUSTIE PANBRIDE CHURCH

About 30 folk were present.

We had tea lights in holders in the pews at the front of the church. at 8.30pm, these were lit and the lights put off.

We sang hymns, had prayers, I gave a short "meditation/reflection". We had readings, one of which was read in Bengali by a friend who was visiting (Psalm 104). There were two sections of the service where reflective music was played and a PowerPoint was shown featuring various aspects of creation - the outdoors, some of the buildings which would be in darkness, and some of the countries involved - Australia, Scotland, England, Bangladesh. It was pointed out that Bangladesh is already feeling the effects of climate change.

At 9.30pm, the lights were put on in the church and folk went home! The PowerPoint was also shown at Youth Group on the Sunday evening.

Hope this helps. People seemed to enjoy the opportunity that was given to them. A few people came from other denominations in Carnoustie.

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## ST JOSEPH'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH, CLARKSTON

All I did was to submit a piece for inclusion in the Sunday bulletin which informed the congregation of the Earth Hour, saying that it indicated our awareness of the need to cut down on our energy use and it was an act in solidarity with those who are most affected by climate change, I've no indication how people responded.

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## ECO-CONGREGATION IRELAND

Thank you for this message I hope your event last Saturday went well -I think it was last Saturday .It clashed with another function for me otherwise I would have attended.

I celebrated Earth Hour with the Quaker Meeting House in Rathfarnham-an award winning eco congregation .We had a service by candlelight followed by refreshments also by candlelight. We were quite reluctant to turn the lights on afterwards. It was quite an ecumenical event .It is good to celebrate these events together.

We only know of 3 churches that did something :

Rathfarnham parish in Dublin switched off its floodlights on Saturday 29th March from 8.30 - 9.30pm while Rathfarnham Quaker Meeting invited members of local churches to join them in a candle-lit reflection where people were invited to share prayers, readings or thoughts with an environment/Creation theme. The worship began and concluded with cello and violin music and everyone enjoyed Fairtrade refreshments by candle-light afterwards.

As well as switching their lights off on the Saturday evening, Dunkineely and Ardara Methodist churches in Donegal used candles the following morning, picking up on the theme of darkness and light, which is central to much of John's Gospel. Jesus said, after all, 'I am the light of the world.'

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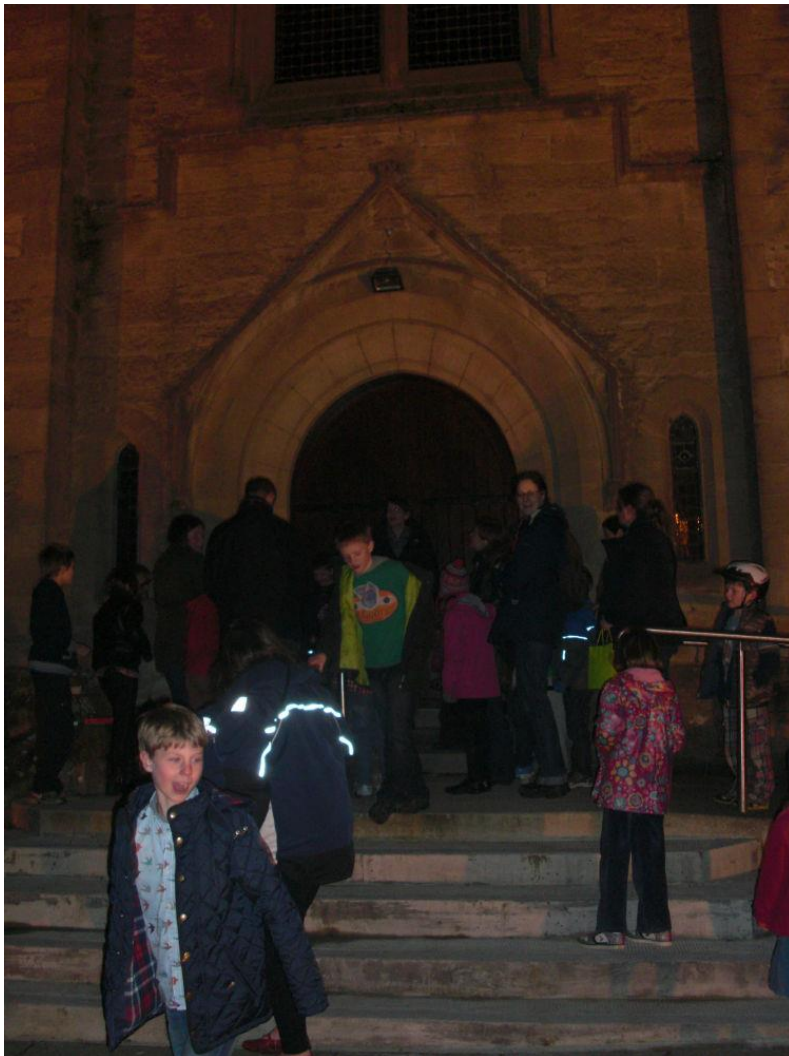
## BALERNO PARISH CHURCH

Thanks for the email. We had a successful Earth Hour event. By way of explanation here's some text that you are welcome to use. I also attach our poster for the event as well as some pictures from the evening.

Balerno Parish Church held a unique community event to support WWF Earth Hour 2014. On Saturday 29th March, with a special screening of the environmentally themed, Disney Pixar movie "WALL-E" held at 6.45pm in the Ogston Hall at the church's St Joseph's centre. This was followed by Balerno's first "Switching off the Lights" ceremony to mark the start of Earth Hour at 8.30pm. The invitation to the event was to the whole community, and this family friendly-event was supported by Balerno Village Screen and The Balerno Girls' Brigade. Tickets for the event were administered via the Balerno Village Screen website and all donations made on the evening went to the Balerno Village Screen which is a Balerno Parish Church and Community venture making use of the refurbished church halls. Around 45 people attended this event which is hopefully the first of many to come.

The event even got mentioned on STV website and Twitter feed : <http://edinburgh.stv.tv/articles/269432-balerno-village-screen-celebrates-earth-hour-with-disney-classic/>





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OLD & ABBEY CHURCH, ARBROATH

We held a candle-light recorded music event for earth hour which I presented.  
I also spoke about Earth Hour, of its importance even to individual people.  
The music chosen was appropriate to the event.

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#### SKENE PARISH CHURCH, ABERDEEN

Again, Skene Parish Church celebrated Earth Hour with a Candlelight Service at Trinity Church Westhill. About 40 people turned up after the Annual Stated Meeting on 29 March 2014 to, first of all join together with Coffee and Pudding and then, celebrate an hour of praise and prayer to celebrate God's Creation.

Our theme, this year was footprints where we considered the impact that we have on our planet and the interdependence of everything on it. The shape of the cross was laid out with beautiful candles. Luminous footprints led from the entrance to the cross. At the beginning of the service, we removed our shoes to show that we were on holy ground.

Earth Hour was explained and members of the group participated with readings, prayers and stories.

An hour of darkness,  
a moment of change,  
a brighter future.



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## CARLOPS PARISH CHURCH

Carlops Eco Group organized a candle light event in church which was attended by around 40 people from the congregation, the local community and from the surrounding area.

The church was decorated with more than a hundred paper stars which had been cut out and coloured by the children of West Linton Primary School and onto which they had written their wishes for our planet. E.g. use less energy and care for the animals. Coffee with home baking was served on arrival and anyone wishing to share a poem, piece of prose or musical item with those present, wrote their name on a card and dropped it into a container.

Gary Jack, who acted as our host for the evening, explained the concept of Earth Hour and described its origins. Names were then drawn out the 'Hat' and, for the next 90 minutes, the audience enjoyed a wide variety of presentations.

The words of a song entitled 'Oh Mother Earth' were passed round the audience and sung with much gusto to the accompaniment of a guitar. Members of the local writers' group delivered poems and pieces of prose from their own work. A small group of musicians performed – after the fun of trying to arrange candles in such a way that the sheets of music were visible. (We ended up with wind-up torches being held by folk standing behind the players! It was pointed out by the conductor that similar difficulties might have been encountered when the music was first performed!)

Although many of the items had an environmental theme, and most were of a serious nature, there were also 'lighter' items giving rise to laughter. The mixture made for a happy event which was concluded by Gary

explaining about '60+ Beyond the Hour' and also some of the projects the WWF are promoting as a follow on from Earth Hour.

A bonus arising from Earth Hour was that contact was made with West Linton Primary School and members of the Carlops Eco Group attended the pupils' Earth Hour follow up Event and presented certificates to the children who had produced beautiful art and literary work. This also gave the opportunity to explain Eco-Congregation Scotland to the pupils.

The consensus is that this was a most successful and worthwhile occasion.





