



MEETING OF EDINBURGH ECO CONGREGATION NETWORK

Held on Wednesday 9 October 2013
In St Andrews & St Georges Parish Church

PRESENT: Bob & Penny Allen, Jean Carletta, Arthur Chapman, Annie Currie, Ruth Forrester, Alice Hague, Eleanor Harris, Alice Hague, Stephen Holmes, Caroline Longley, Phyllis Thompson, Margaret Warnock.

WELCOME: Arthur Chapman welcomed everyone to the meeting, especially Eleanor Harris who would be the speaker for this evening. Her talk was entitled "Earth be Glad and What is Next". AC also expected her to be invited to speak at other congregations.

TALK – EARTH BE GLAD & WHAT IS NEXT by Eleanor Harris.

Eleanor started this powerful and stimulating talk by quoting from St John – 'Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath'. She continued quoting people from scripture including Amos. She pointed out that Jesus had a very special connection to the natural earth – he walked on the water and the winds & waves obeyed him. 'Scripture teams with life' and she implored us to 'open our eyes and see'.

She reminded us of our powerlessness. Like on the Day of Pentecost we need to repent and save ourselves like the people of Nineveh. In order to save our world we need to do a 180° turn moving completely away from our present lifestyles.

VOTE OF THANKS

AC gave thanks to Eleanor Harris for a powerful talk.

Eleanor in turn asked if there were any questions. There were very few questions as we were stunned by this powerful and passionate talk.

BUSINESS MEETING:

2014 Programme

Following some discussion the following three meetings were proposed (dates and venues tbc):

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| Feb / Mar | Positive Investment
A talk by Jean Carletta about making wise and ethical investment choices for ourselves and our churches |
| June | A walk for prayer and reflection in the natural world |
| Early Oct | Fracking: sensible solution or disastrous development?
2013 saw the initial development of fracking in the UK. Reviled by some as a dangerous and unnecessary prolongation of gas as an energy source and an environmental hazard, it has been strongly supported by others, including the UK Government, as a useful source of cheap gas for future decades. The furious debate and demonstrations it has sparked off have not been conclusive or very enlightening and facts about fracking in the UK seem hard to come by. Yet this an important debate and central to the future of our energy use and responding to climate change. What does it mean for you and what do you think we should do? A big question but one that eco-congregations should consider. |

Adrian Shaw, Climate Change Officer at the Church of Scotland would like to hear your views.