



Glasgow Eco-Congregation Network

7.30pm, Wednesday 24th September 2014
Kirkintilloch Parish Church

Present:	Jan MacDonald	St Margaret's, Newlands
	William Gilchrist	Cadder Parish Church
	Irene Walker	”
	Katy Owen	St Mary's Parish Church, Kirkintilloch
	Sheena Nicol	”
	Margaret Pears	”
	Janice Reid	”
	June G McCann	”

1. Welcome

Getting other local congregations involved was discussed. There are four churches in the Churches Together group in Kirkintilloch and they could be contacted. Cadder has applied for a third award and plans to hold an “Open Evening”, once they have achieved their award.

2. 'What on earth should Churches do about creation?'

Rev Trevor Jamison – Environmental Chaplain

In his presentation Trevor spoke about how Church concern about creation has been given a greater impetus by awareness of climate change, occurring as a result of human activity across the planet. Christians, though, should care about and for creation anyway because it is God's creation and God, though through the words of Jesus, calls us to love our planetary neighbour; and 'neighbour' should be widely defined. Trevor then shared with the group three examples of the Church speaking out about environmental issues - the recent reports from the Church of Scotland: 'Our Vision' (see p16 – 17

http://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/data/assets/pdf_file/0019/19243/our_vision.pdf) and the Evangelical Alliance in Scotland : 'What Kind of Nation?' (see p25-28

<http://www.eauk.org/scotland/what-kind-of-nation.cfm>), as well as the ongoing, growing, congregationally-based work of Eco Congregation Scotland. Also, Trevor briefly shared some information about how he had walked the John Muir Way from Helensburgh to Dunbar earlier this year and how this now forms the basis for an illustrated talk given by him to churches and other groups, as a gentle way in to considering environmental issues. A flier about this talk is attached with these notes. Please circulate to other groups in your congregation, who might be interested in inviting Trevor.

3. Resources

Hard copies of a number of resources which could be of help to congregations just starting out on their eco-congregation journey or those who are looking for new ideas were displayed for browsing, These resources are all available on line as follows:

- **Ideas for Action** the following IfAs have been updated:

Greening Worship:

<http://www.ecocongregationscotland.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/10/m2.pdf>

Theology and the Environment:

<http://www.ecocongregationscotland.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/06/Theology-and-the-environment.pdf>

Greening Church Buildings:

<http://www.ecocongregationscotland.org/materials/ideas-for-action/practical-living/greening-the-cornerstone/>

Greening Church Spending:

<http://www.ecocongregationscotland.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/11/Greening-Church-Spending.pdf>

Community Matters:

<http://www.ecocongregationscotland.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/11/Community-Matters.pdf>

Global Neighbours:

<http://uploads.ecocongregationscotland.org/uploads/m12.pdf>

Managing your carbon footprint

<http://www.ecocongregationscotland.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/11/Managing-Your-Carbon-Footprint.pdf>

- **Creation Time materials:** produced each year for Creation Time, 1st September – 4th October, but can be used any time - <http://www.ecocongregationscotland.org/materials/creation-time/>
- **Earth Hour:** Ideas about how to mark this time from eco-congregations around the country - <http://www.ecocongregationscotland.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/10/Earth-Hour-Report-2014.pdf>
- **A Rocha resources:** an international Christian environmental organisation - <http://www.arocha.org/int-en/resources/church-resources.html>
- **Christian Ecology Link:** another Christian environmental organisation – <http://www.christian-ecology.org.uk/resource.htm>

4. Update from churches

St Mary's, Kirkintilloch recently celebrated Harvest Festival and invited Diane Green from Christian Aid as their speaker. They had a pledge tree where people committed to make a lifestyle change to help the environment. Katy shared some “eco songs” and described a “Rainbow Litany” used at the service, which used one natural object for each colour.

They have also had an Eco-Congregation display at a recent flower festival and work with both the local care home and bank to fill and maintain planters and pots.

A project with Concern for Swifts led to a survey of the local swift population. The local high school Technical Department also made four swift nestboxes. Mugdock Country Park Ranger Service is also coming to hold a nestbox building day in the church car park in November.

Cadder Parish, Bishopbriggs has involved the Sunday School in the process of planting, lifting and tasting potatoes and vegetables, so that they can see where their food comes from. Vegetables were kept and used at the Burns Supper in January and a Soup for Sunday event, with scones and jam made from the small apple trees in the churchyard garden.

The congregation supports a wide range of recycling initiatives, including ink cartridges, spectacles, mobile phones, stamps and Christmas cards. They also continue to run the Coffee and Fair Trade shop in the South Halls, which is open to the community. The congregation supports the "Rice Challenge" through the Shop (see <http://www.justtradingscotland.co.uk/pages/90kg-challenge>). Fund raising with Kirkintilloch Male Voice Choir enabled the church to pay for the delivery of recycled road plainings, used to repair the church car park.

The church has been fully redecorated by volunteer elders using of eco-friendly paint. They are going to run a Christmas Quiz to raise funds for their Eco-Congregation membership fee.

St Margaret's, Newlands achieved their first award in the summer and are planning a Harvest service. However, they have more recently been focussing on a major organ refurbishment project.

There is a lot of interest in recycling in the congregation and they use "recycling for good causes" website to find homes for the materials they collect: www.recyclingforgoodcauses.org.

5. Dates for your diary

**27th October 7.30pm Christian Aid Roadshow: WHY SHOULD CHRISTIANS CARE ABOUT CLIMATE CHANGE
Wellington Church, South Park Avenue, Glasgow**

26th November 7.30pm Network Planning Meeting for 2015 at Tron St Mary's Church, Balornock

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