



Moray Eco-Congregation Network
17th March 2015, 7.30 – 9.00pm
Bellie Parish Church, Fochabers
Note of Meeting

Present:

Aileen Buchanan	Spynie, Duffus and Hopeman
Rebecca Kail	Jasciah House church, Elgin
Carola Smith	Elgin St Giles and St Columba's South
Duncan Alexander	" " "
Iain	Buckie North Church
Avril Clark	Bellie and Speymouth
John McConnachie	" " "
George Borthwick	" " "

Apologies: Jenny Adams Spynie, Duffus and Hopeman

1. **Opening Prayer** The meeting started with a prayer from a recent eco-congregation service at Stirling Baptist Church, which is copied at the end of this note.

2. **Should churches invest in fossil fuel companies?**

Adrian Shaw, the Church of Scotland's Climate Change Officer introduced the subject and explained how this campaign came about. In discussion the following points were raised:

- In part, it's the life we lead causing the problems. We have to recognise this.
- Doing nothing is not an option, go after the companies.
- Church investments should follow the mission of the church and seek to promote a just and fair society. Don't invest in companies that don't do this, move the portfolio.
- Get involved in companies that we want to influence, take direct action, don't wait for others to do it. Go to AGMs, raise questions, be a nuisance.
- Press companies to take action themselves not just to wait on the government to tell them.

This was the first of a series of talks and discussions on this topic that Adrian is giving to networks and other groups around the country. He will be collating all the responses that he receives into a report he will make to the Church of Scotland's 2016 General Assembly.

3. **Update from churches:**

Elgin St Giles and St Columba's South - the Sunday School now has an Eco focus every third Sunday of the month (see photos on website at:

<http://www.ecocongregationscotland.org/networks/moray-network/>) . A recent activity included poster making, one with a "Reduce, Recycle, Rejoice" slogan! Their Youth Camp also hoped to celebrate Earth Hour (see <http://www.ecocongregationscotland.org/materials/earth-hour-for-churches/>)

Duffus, Spynie and Hopeman are undertaking a series of "field trips" to explore how different churches in the area have tackled energy efficiency and improving their heating and lighting systems. One church they visited at Dyke have found novel solution by installing a false ceiling to conserve heat in the winter. The ceiling can be raised again for the summer months!

Bellie Parish Church have recently united with **Speymouth Church** and are working with them to introduce creation care ideas to the congregation through recycling collections and are looking for opportunities to improve energy efficiency in their buildings. At Bellie they are issuing every member of the congregation with a tea light that has a message asking people to join in Earth Hour on 28th March by switching off their lights between 8.30 and 9.30pm. For safety Sunday School children are to get a battery operated tealight!

5. Dates for the diary

25th April ECS 2015 Annual Gathering: Preparing For Paris

10:00am – 3:15pm at Falkirk Trinity Church, Manse Place, Falkirk (Nearest rail station – Falkirk Grahamston) with Main Speakers: Aileen McLeod MSP, Minister for Climate Change, Scottish Government and Kathy Galloway, Head of Christian Aid Scotland

8th June Network Visit to the Findhorn Foundation timings and meeting places tbc

8th Sept Network Meeting at ?Holy Trinity, Elgin about local recycling strategies with speaker from Moray Council. Avril will follow up. Venue and topic tbc

MW150330

Eco-congregation Prayer

Dear Father,

Thank you for giving us the world we live in, with all its beauty, wonder and variety.

You call us to look after the world.

Our faith in You leads us to take responsibility for our environment

Lord Jesus..

Show us how to care for your world

As individuals and as a church, there are many things we can do to make a difference.

Help us to find out what we can do.

Give us the strength and enthusiasm to do things differently.

Lord Jesus..

Show us how to care for your world

Help us to make good choices in the way we live.

These choices we make can have an impact on the lives of people who we are not likely to meet, but whom we can benefit greatly.

Help us to live more sustainably both as individuals and as a church.

Lord Jesus..

Show us how to care for your world

In the silence, pray about the things you could do that will make a difference.

Lord Jesus..

Show us how to care for your world

Amen