



**Central Borders Eco-Congregation Network
Note of Meeting held on 13th April 2015
at St Boswell's Parish Church**

PRESENT:

Cliff Ellershaw	St Boswells Parish Church
Sandra Thomas	“ “ “
Blair Cummock	“ “ “
Patricia Cole	Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, Melrose
Jane Barley	“ “ “
Ian Skinner	“ “ “
Mo Brown	Selkirk Parish Church
Francine Hardwick	St Cuthbert's High Cross RC Church, Melrose
Trevor Jamison	Eco-Congregation Scotland
Margaret Warnock	“ “ “

1. The meeting opened with a welcome, introductions and a prayer.

2. The Environment: A Christian Imperative?

A Talk by Rev Trevor Jamison, Environmental Chaplain to Eco-Congregation Scotland. Trevor's talk focused on ten points about why the environment could be considered an imperative for Christians:

- Because it is God's Earth ...
- Because it is beautiful ...
- Because God loves it ...
- Because God says so ...
- Because we are all part of it ...
- Because we depend on each other ...
- Because it is on loan from our children ...
- Because we are grateful ...
- Because we have hope ...
- Because it is a joy, not a burden ... OR (in the light of conversation on the night) Because it is our duty and our joy

The meeting was reminded that Trevor is available to come to congregations, to lead worship and/or preach, or to speak to groups on organisation on creation-related issues, such as the talk given on the evening or, for example, on his experiences of 'Walking the John Muir Way'. Contact Trevor on trevor@ecocongregationscotland.org.

3. Update from Churches

Holy Trinity currently have an application in for an Eco-Congregation Award (see <http://www.ecocongregationscotland.org/award/>). They have a variety of recycling collections in the church and are investigating environmentally friendly heating systems for the church, hall and adjacent manse.

St Boswell's have a noticeboard in their halls, which are used by community groups, which is used to advertise Earth Hour and other caring for creation actions. They also have regular "eco tips" in

their church magazine, which goes to every household in the community (1,700). The local community hall has also been upgraded with help from a Climate Challenge Fund grant and the church assisted with the education aspects of this project by distributing cards with home energy efficiency information with their magazine.

St Cuthbert's are just starting out but already have recycling and Fair Trade initiatives in the church. They were encouraged to look at the Church's Check Up (see <http://www.ecocongregationscotland.org/materials/ideas-for-action/church-check-up/>), which is a simple audit of caring for creation activity and a useful starting point for planning and prioritising actions.

Selkirk have already achieved much and have installed solar panels on their church roof (see <http://uploads.ecocongregationscotland.org/assets/conference/Selkirk-pv-project-summary.pdf>). They have a variety of other on-going eco actions and recently hosted a film showing of "The Age of Stupid" (see <http://www.spannerfilms.net/films/ageofstupid>).

4. News from Eco-Congregation Scotland

Annual Gathering and AGM of Eco-Congregation Scotland This will take place on Saturday 25th April at Falkirk Trinity Church, 10 – 3pm. A full programme and booking form can be downloaded at <http://www.ecocongregationscotland.org/get-involved/events/2015-annual-gathering/>. The theme of the Conference is Preparing for Paris, which is a reference to the upcoming UN Climate Change Conference, which will take place in Paris, 30th November – 11th December this year.

Baton Relay Eco-Congregation Scotland is taking a baton to Paris, to express the demands of churches in Scotland that negotiators agree to a deal that promotes global climate justice. The baton, which will pass around churches in Scotland throughout the summer of 2015, will carry the hopes and aspirations of Christians across Scotland for climate justice to be central to any agreement reached at the conference. There will be an opportunity to sign your church up to host the baton at the Annual Gathering and further publicity will follow. <http://www.ecocongregationscotland.org/get-involved/events/baton-relay/>

5. Network Organisation

Each network normally has a local network co-ordinator, who assists with mailings and collecting and distributing locally relevant information. Ian Skinner from Holy Trinity, Melrose volunteered to take on this role for the network.

It is also helpful if member churches can share the hosting and note taking of each network meeting. This should not be too arduous as, at present only two meetings a year are scheduled!

6. Network Programme

It was agreed (subject to confirmation of availability from the church) that the next meeting will be at Selkirk Parish Church on Monday 19th October, 7.30 – 9pm, when there will be an opportunity to see and hear more about the solar panels and other projects the church is undertaking.

7. AOCB

Greener Borders is a network of local environmental groups and Central Borders Eco-Congregation Network is represented on this group by Ian Skinner. They organise monthly talks in Melrose at the Ormiston Rooms and the next meeting is on Wednesday 22nd April, when David Long of the Borders Forest Trust will give a talk on “Bhutan: seeing the wood and the trees”.

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