



Glasgow Eco-Congregation Network

7.30pm, Wednesday 9th September 2015
Yoker Parish Church

1. Yoker Church Garden

The church has an area of land to the rear of the church and also at each side, which they are seeking to make use of to involve the community and create a greener, more pleasant and useable space.

They have a detailed plan dividing the grounds up into 10 different areas, with different ideas for each. These include:

- An established Bible Border, made up of plants named in the Bible.
- Vegetable growing with children to use in church and to take home: strawberries, cabbage, cauliflower, radishes and peas (with peppers and tomatoes grown inside)
- Tubs and boxes on fencing around the church to create a colourful welcome
- Espalier fruit tree planting against an old wall (advice on sourcing and planting Scottish varieties can be obtained through Appletreeman - <http://plantsandapples.co.uk/>)
- A walk through Sensory garden looked after by a local community group (the Busy Buddies)

All developments are planned to be wheelchair accessible

Funding has been obtained through local businesses and approaches are being made to Yarrows and Asda. The Herald is doing a full page spread to promote the garden and encourage further funding from local businesses.

Before we lost the daylight we walked around the church while Donna explained the Garden Project. Don't be deceived this isn't a huge plot of land and a professional landscaping team – just modest church grounds with huge ambition, enthusiastic leadership, enormous commitment to developing a community greenspace and great involvement with the local community! Yoker is in this for the long term and the plans have been made up in such a way as to include as many people as possible ensuring seamless continuation as leadership changes

2. Discussion

- Other ideas towards raising awareness of climate change issues were shared.
- Fair Trade instant coffee seems to have developed a poor reputation as a result of the earliest versions. Several of us testified to great improvements in flavour! A blind tasting of usual commercial brands and FairTrade instant coffees could be a way to persuade congregation members that FT coffee is really worth drinking!
We mentioned the recent BBC 'This World' programme on tea (for further info see: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/articles/3KyyFTDG8q7xFL0tzvsWt97/the-tea-trail-with-simon-reeve>) and the benefits of Fair Trade to workers in the tea industry across the world.
- Although almost over, the Soil Association has been promoting 'Organic' Food through the campaign 'Organic your September' The campaign has plenty of tips and suggestions to encourage people to eat healthily and support the environmental benefits of organic farming: <http://www.soilassociation.org/organicseptember>

- Margaret also reminded us of ‘LOAF’ principles (see <http://www.greenchristian.org.uk/archives/2547>) to guide your food buying choices: buy Locally produced items, Organic if possible, buy and cook more Animal-free foods (vegetarian, vegan, ‘meat-free Mondays etc) and when buying from beyond our shores try and buy Fair Trade such as bananas, coffee, chocolate. Jan mentioned extending this to all your church catering and events and recommended the use of compostable disposable plates, cups and cutlery which is now available from catering suppliers such as Booker cash & carry or on-line e.g. Vegware. Jan could testify to these ‘compostable’ qualities.

3. Further useful information / links from Jan:

- Garden Organic: <https://www.gardenorganic.org.uk/advice>
- Love Food, Hate Waste (a lot of good recipe ideas!) <http://scotland.lovefoodhatewaste.com/>
- Glasgow Play Resource Association www.glasgowplay.org.uk/
- “Story of Stuff”: American cartoon films on various waste / environmental issues www.storyofstuff.org

4. Other up and coming events:

- Saturday September 26th – Local Network Seminar in Dunblane 11am- 3.30pm
- The Climate Justice Baton relay will be happening in Glasgow in October & November before Eco-Congregation Scotland takes it to Paris, to express the demands of churches in Scotland that negotiators agree to a deal that promotes global climate justice.

5. Date of next meeting:

tbc Tuesday November 3rd Margaret will contact possible host church.

Suggested themes – Water and waste. We could perhaps also use one of the “Story of Stuff” films.