



North Argyll Eco-Congregation Network

21st October 2015

St John's Cathedral, Oban

Note of Meeting

Present: Brien Dickey – Netherlorn Churches (Kilbrandon), Liz Gibson – Mull, Iona, Colonsay and Oronsay, Liz Crawford – Oban Parish Church, Lynda Mitchell and Morag Orward – Ardhattan Parishes (St Modan's, Benderloch), Nicky McNelly – St John's Cathedral

Apologies: Emily Wilkins – Ross of Mull, Jean Hodgson – representing Mid Argyll Network

1. After a welcome and introductions we opened in prayer

2. An Eco-Congregation Network for North Argyll

a. What is the network for?

It was agreed that the network was for the mutual support of congregations and parishes wishing to develop their creation care work. We could share both our successes and challenges in this work, although it was acknowledged every church was different and we are all at different stages of development.

It would also be helpful to share and build support for joint projects, such as looking at installing charging point for electric cars

(<http://www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/electric-vehicles>) in church car parks and the 90kg rice challenge form Just Trading Scotland (<http://jts.co.uk/90kg-rice-challenge>)

b. What area should the network cover?

After some discussion, it was agreed that the North Argyll network should cover churches in the areas of Oban, Mull, Iona, Tiree, Colonsay, Oronsay, Taynuilt, Connel, Glenorchy, Dunbeag and Dalmally.

Craignish Parish Church would remain in the Mid Argyll network area.

c. How do we get others involved and keep them involved?

Margaret will contact the Iona Community to ask for a more local contact (the contact is currently through their Glasgow office).

Nicky will make the Lorn Ministers group aware of the new network and encourage participation.

Other denominational contacts could be made through the Episcopal Diocese of Argyll and the Isles and through the Argyll Presbytery (moderator Ken Ross of the Netherlorn Churches).

d. How do we cater for island eco-congregations?

Video conferencing seems an obvious way forward. **Liz G** will investigate availability of facilities at the Argyll College in Oban.

3. How is the network going to be organised?

a. Who will co-ordinate activities?

Networks are encouraged to find a local co-ordinator, who can act as a contact for churches in the area and with ECS centrally. This frees up the national ECS Co-ordinator to support and develop other new networks across the country.

The local co-ordinator would receive an email list of all ECS contacts in the area and be responsible for circulating notices of and notes from meetings plus any other relevant information members wished to share. This should not be an onerous task with most activity being focussed around the network meetings, which are only a few times a year.

As a co-ordinator was not identified at this meeting Margaret will act as the local co-ordinator for the time being.

b. How often will the network meet?

Three times a year was agreed

c. What will be the programme for the coming year / who will host meetings?

Date	Theme	Venue
Wed 3 rd March	An Introduction to Eco-Congregation Scotland / Launch of North Argyll Network	Oban Parish Church tbc
Sat 21 st May	Regional Gathering (joint with Mid Argyll Network) Speaker Scott Wham on the Cowal Churches project and invite ALLenergy	St John the Divine, Oban
Wed 21 st Sept	tbc	tbc

d. How will the programme be publicised?

Invitations for all meetings to:

- all in the area on the ECS database
- through the local presbytery and diocese

Article in the Oban Times (main part of paper) before the March meeting

4. Next steps

Liz C to confirm venue at Oban Parish for 3rd March

Margaret will invite Jean Hodgson to next meeting to discuss organisation of Regional Gathering

Margaret will put out advance notice and invitation to ECS contacts **Liz G** and **Nicky** will forward to presbytery / diocese

5. News from Eco-Congregation Scotland

The Climate Justice Baton relay has been a huge success see

<http://www.ecocongregationscotland.org/news/>.

The ECS 2016 Annual Gathering will be on 23rd April on the theme of Biodiversity – venue tbc but likely to be in Dundee or Perth.

6. The meeting closed with saying the Grace

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