

Helensburgh & Lomond Eco-Congregation Network

Notes of Meeting Wed 4th November 2015, The Bungalow HPC 10:30am

1. Attendees – M Sweetland, E Lambert S Kerr M Nutter, M Graham, S McGeoch, J Chisholm, A Packard. **Apologies** – M Warnock; A Cameron
Sandy Kerr, HPC, was welcomed to his 1st meeting. It had been hoped that Rev Stephen Brown would attend with an update on the situation at URC. It was noted that Alistair Cameron had resigned from the group as he was leaving the area.

2. **ECS Network Gathering – Saturday 26th Sept, Dunblane**

Selina, Margaret G and Sandy Kerr, gave some feedback on the Network Gathering. It had been a busy day. John Ferguson, ex SEPA, had given a very interesting talk and the ideas exchange on what networks had been doing could have been a longer session. Both were rich sources of ideas. They'd been particularly impressed by the ideas from Sara Young Torphichen Parish Church.

3. **Update from Churches**

St Michaels had shown a saving in gas heating of 27% over 2 years with careful monitoring of use. Electricity use was down 15%. Anne commented that in every church magazine, Selina always has an interesting article promoting environmental issues. They were beginning to think about applying for their 2nd award. Selina will be going to the Climate Change march in Edinburgh on 28th November, leaving on an early train.

Jamestown had made little progress since they had property issues giving concern. They continue to encourage reducing waste.

Alexandria were assessed for the 2nd Award on 28th October and had been successful. Mary recommended the BBC2 programme – Hugh's Waste which had been really informative on food waste, highlighting how badly the supermarkets were treating farmers. She had met with a rep from the company aiming to redevelop Park and Kilmahew in Cardross.

Helensburgh was in a bit of a limbo until the new minister was in post on 15th December. Sandy would be consulting with the session on their priority for environmental stewardship.

Liz recommended the Christian Aid resource – The food on my plate, where it comes from where it goes. Margaret Nutter noted that the Guild is supporting Mother earth Bolivia, and she can speak on that to any group.

4. **Membership & Future Plans**

Helensburgh Beach Keepers was a new group and Liz would speak to them about our Pentecost event, 15th May. Coffee Morning was booked for HPC on Saturday 11th June. Liz noted that there were new priests across the west coast archdiocese for the catholic church and with the Pope's encyclical on the environment there might be opportunities to get them involved. March's meeting would be either first Monday or Tuesday depending on speakers diary – we'd like to hear about outcomes from COP21 Paris. May meeting would be on Monday 9th in HPC. Other dates tentatively – 5th Sept and 7th Nov. Indications are the

Scottish Government will be pushing increased individual action and networks will be encouraged to take forward some of the ideas at their meetings.

Mary noted that Margaret Warnock would be retiring from ECS in the Spring. Date had been set for ECS Annual Gathering on Saturday 23rd April in Dundee. Mid & North Argyll Networks having another Regional Gathering on 21st May in Oban. Scott Wham will be talking about the Sustainable Building project and we will be invited.

- 5. Date of Next Meeting: - Monday 7th Mar 10:30am in Alexandria Parish Church where Adrian Shaw will reflect on the COP21 in Paris.**