



PENG - Perth Eco Congregation Network Group

Meeting Held at St Matthew's Church, Perth

Monday 29th February 2016

Meeting Notes

1. Welcome and Opening Prayer

Margaret welcomed everyone and opened the meeting with a prayer

2. Revitalising Creation Care Work in your Church

Local and national examples of inspirational creation care work were used as a starting point for discussion. Each congregation was then asked to identify their:

STRENGTHS:

- **People** – can you involve other members of the congregation through the work they already do for the church eg by encouraging less waste and more recycling in the church kitchen, office or in our own homes
- **Interests** – in every congregation there will be members / supporters of environmental organisations such as the RSPB, Scottish Wildlife Trust, WWF or Greenpeace and Friends of the Earth. How do you encourage these people to make the link between their faith and environmental action?
- **Community** – what environmental projects are going on locally? Are there ways in which you can link with and / or support them? Virtually every school in Scotland is an Eco School. They might find it very helpful to have a link into the community through the church. Can you contact them, maybe through the chaplaincy work your minister / priest already does in the schools?
- **Resources** – make sure you “play to your strengths”. If you have a keen “birders” or gardeners in your congregation, can you enlist their help in bird box building or making the church garden more wildlife friendly?

and then look at:

OPPORTUNITIES by :

- Working through the Churches Check Up again
<http://www.ecocongregationscotland.org/materials/ideas-for-action/church-check-up/>
- Using the Ideas for Action:
<http://www.ecocongregationscotland.org/materials/ideas-for-action/>
- Looking for other sources of help eg
 - Christian Aid
<http://www.christianaid.org.uk/ActNow/climate-change/> and
<http://www.christianaid.org.uk/scotland/another-way/events.aspx>
 - Tearfund
<http://www.tearfund.org/en-sc/about-us/what-we-do-and-where/issues/environment-and-climate-change>
<http://www.tearfund.org/en-sc/about-us/what-we-do-and-where/issues/water-and-sanitation/>

- SCIAF
<http://www.sciaf.org.uk/latest-news/climate-change-poverty-and-caring-for-our-environment.html>
 - A Rocha
<http://arocha.org.uk/about-us/what-we-do/>
 - Christian Ecology Link
<http://www.greenchristian.org.uk/>
- Make a plan with achievable targets
 - Celebrate and share your successes ... even little ones!

Lastly everyone was asked to keep supporting the local network!

3. **Programme for 2016 – all dates, venues and speakers tbc**

| | | <u>ACTION</u> |
|---|--|----------------------|
| 6th or 8th May | - Visit to Dunbarney Parish Church to see their Prayer Walk and a walk around Bridge of Earn | Avril |
| Sept | - What can we do about Climate Justice? (A follow up to UN Climate Change Summit in Paris – a talk from Adrian Shaw the Church of Scotland’s Climate Change Officer Venue: Riverside Church | Margaret and Mary |
| Nov | - Laudato Si – the Papal Encyclical on the Environment Speaker to be identified Venue: ?St John’s Community Campus | Margaret |

4. **Close of Meeting**

Margaret thanked those present for attending and, as she will retire on March 31st, she also warmly thanked everyone for all their support over many years.

MW160324