



Moray Eco-Congregation Network

Notes from Moray Network meeting

9th March 2016

Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, Elgin

1. Welcome and Opening Prayer

Margaret read a prayer form the Creation Time resources available at:

<http://www.ecocongregationscotland.org/materials/creation-time/>

2. Purchasing Policies for Churches

Looking at purchasing policies from four different churches two groups discussed the following questions:

- What “types” of purchases are covered in these documents and are there any missing (shown in italics)?

Consumables	Food (including biscuits, communion bread – need for gluten free)
	Drinks (including tea, coffee, milk and communion wine)
	Crockery
	<i>Flowers</i>
	Stationery
	<i>Candles</i>
	Cleaning materials
	<i>Napkins</i>
	Paper towels
	<i>Kitchen roll</i>
	Toilet rolls
	<i>Tea towels</i>
	Light bulbs

Bigger Items	White goods
	Decorating and building materials
	Motion sensors for lighting

Services	Energy (gas / electricity / oil etc)
	Investments
	Transport / travel

Issues to consider in an ethical purchasing policy:

- How do we set priorities:
 - consider who is the policy for? Who is it aimed at? Maybe split policy into sections that cover: the kitchen, church office, property, finance etc
 - church decision-making body should have oversight of complete policy
 - there a need for a stepped policy that introduces change and new ideas about purchasing gradually
 - start with things that are easily achievable – the quick wins
 - celebrate success!
- Waste – starting point is “do we need this” and before purchase consider: “how do we dispose of this?”
- Communications (paper vs electronic)
- Buying food according to the LOAF principles (ie Local, Organic, Animal friendly, Fair trade) – see <http://www.greenchristian.org.uk/?s=LOAF>.
- Consider how to deal with “donations” eg of non Fair Trade tea and coffee

Further information is available in the ECS website at <http://www.ecocongregationscotland.org/materials/ideas-for-action/practical-living/greening-the-purse-strings/> and in Ideas for Action on Management of Church Finances and Purchases see - <http://www.ecocongregationscotland.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/11/Greening-Church-Spending.pdf>
The purchasing policy for Queen's Cross Church, Aberdeen is also attached with these notes.

3. Update from Churches

Elgin St Giles and St Columba's South Church

As their minister is about to leave things are in a state of flux in church and creation care matters are not getting a high priority at the moment. However, Carola Smith continues to represent the network on the Moray at Sustainability Forum.

Holy Trinity much effort has been put into a comprehensive recycling centre in the church halls. The church (and cleaner!) have been persuaded to use environmentally friendly cleaning materials by pointing out that they are less toxic both for the environment and for allergies people who suffer or maybe undergoing treatments such as chemotherapy etc. As materials are now bought wholesale and centrally, it has also proved cheaper than using more conventional materials.

Bellie, Fochabers are promoting Traidcraft in the church and are gradually moving to take it out to out to other venues. They use the Ragbag scheme (<http://www.rag-bag.co.uk/>) and, as this is so well supported, they are getting a bigger container for donations. The scheme has proved a constant fundraiser for church. Articles are also written for the church magazine. Recently vegetarians in the congregation have been sharing recipes to encourage campaigns such as "Meat Free Mondays" (<http://www.meatfreemondays.com/> and http://www.tearfund.org/en-sc/about_you/campaign/actions/eat_less_meat/?gclid=CO_a15nztcsCFTUz0wodt3EMbg).

Duffus, Spynie and Hopeman have considered purchasing policy but confusion arose on the various with energy deals available, for example from the Church of Scotland and Christian Aid. Hopeman Church is very cold during winter and they are hoping to explore solar panels and improved insulation for the church. They also have regular magazine articles on environmental matters and have recently held a Fair Trade coffee morning.

News from Eco-Congregation Scotland

The Annual Gathering is being held in Perth this year with the theme of "A Space for Nature in Your Congregation". Further information from: <http://www.ecocongregationscotland.org/get-involved/events/2016-annual-gathering/>.

Geetotal This is an initiative from Stirling Methodist Church in response to the UN Summit on Climate Change in Paris, December 2015. This initiative is a personal commitment to add no more to global carbon emissions see <http://geetotal.org/>

Future network meetings (all details to be confirmed)

8th June A visit to the Community Garden at Transition Town Forres
14th September Planning for A Regional Gathering in Moray? Bellie Church Session Room, Fochabers