

**Central Borders Eco-Congregation Network**  
**Note of Meeting held on Monday, 7<sup>th</sup> March 2016**  
**At Kelso North Parish Church**

<b>Present:</b>	Ian Skinner	Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, Melrose
	Alasdair Johnston	* " "
	Violet Bolton	Kelso North & Ednam Parish Church
	Anne Bethune	Selkirk Parish Church
	Elissa Jones	" "
	David Bethune	Eco-Congregation Scotland
	Blair Cummock	St Boswells Parish Church
	Cliff Ellenhow	^ "
	Mary Taylor	Selkirk United Reformed Church

1. The meeting opened with a welcome and introductions.
2. **Growing the Network**  
There are currently only 7 Eco Congregations in the Network for Central Borders.  
There is scope to expand and everyone was asked to try and encourage other Churches within their area to become an Eco Congregation.  
The Eco Congregation statement is "Committed to looking after God's Creation"
3. **Greener Borders**  
In January David Bethune delivered a talk on the "The Solar Church Experience in Selkirk" at one of the Greener Borders monthly meetings. Details of these meetings are circulated to EcoCongregations and it is hoped that they will be well supported. EcoCongregation will be hosting another meeting next year.
4. **"Kelso Churches Together" – an Ecumenical Initiative**  
Violet Bolton gave the group an overview on the role of Kelso Churches Together. This included the work of the Food Bank, Joint Services, Services in Care Homes and their role during Civic Week and the Border Union Show.
5. **Earth Hour – 19<sup>th</sup> March 2016**  
Earth Hour is a global annual event where millions of people switch off their lights for one hour to show they care about the planet. Some Churches within our Group are marking this with Candlelit or Taize Services.
6. **EcoCongregation Annual Gathering – Perth 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2016**  
The Annual Gathering will be held in St Ninian's Cathedral, Perth, from 10am -3.15pm. The main speakers will be Stuart Housden, head of RSPB Scotland and Andy Lester of A Rocha UK. The theme is "A Place for Nature in your Church" and workshops will be on a conservation theme.  
The AGM of Eco-Congregation Scotland will also be held.
7. **Brief reports from Congregations**  
  
**Holy Trinity, Melrose** will be marking Earth Hour.

**Selkirk Parish Church** have now received an Eco-Congregation award .The eco noticboard is currently displaying information about COP21.

**St Boswells** have regular articles in their newsletter and display information on the panel in the hall, which is seen by many in the community. They have also installed a new heating system

**The Crookham (Northumberland) Church Garden is now open 24hrs.**

**8. Eco-Congregation News**

David Bethune was appointed National Coordinator in March 2016 following Margaret Warnock's retirement. He will support local networks and local registered eco-congregations, encouraging them to increase their level of practical activity and understanding of environmental issues.

David brought to the attention of the group that a debate on "Carbon Reduction and Fuel Poverty", would be held on Wednesday 6 April 2016 at the Edinburgh Science Festival. Leaflets on "Geetotal" – were handed out.

**9. AOB**

There was no other business

**10. Date of next meeting**

The next meeting will be on Wednesday, 28<sup>th</sup> September in the Trinity Centre, Melrose.