

Helensburgh and Lomond Eco-Congregation Notes from Meeting Wednesday 1st May 2013

1. The meeting opened in meditation & prayer. The meeting was preceded by a tour of Maryville Passivhaus in Gartocharn.
2. Present:
 - Steve Alexander – Helensburgh URC
 - Margaret Nutter – Jamestown Parish
 - Ann Binnie – Helensburgh URC
 - Mary Sweetland – Alexandria Parish (chair)
 - Jim Milne - St Andrew's Helensburgh
 - Margaret Horrell - St Michaels Helensburgh.
 - Elizabeth Lambert – St Andrew's Helensburgh
 - Ann Purdie – St Michael's Helensburgh
 - Margaret Wardil – St Michael's Helensburgh
 - Jan Chisholm - St Andrew's Helensburgh
 - Alistair Cameron - St Andrew's Helensburgh
3. Beach Clean on Pentecost 19th May 2-4pm meeting at Kidston Park. All is organised. Co-op providing support. Several members apologised that they'd not be there due to clashes with other events.
4. Eco-Coffee morning 8th June 10am-12 St Andrew's King Street Hall.

Jim M reported that he had sent out invitations to local schools to design an eco house. Fairtrade Stall, Cake & Candy, Bookstall confirmed. Elizabeth L has invited John & Debbie from Farm, Shore restore and Grab Trust but awaits confirmation, will chase. Also still need confirmation from Margaret Warnock that she is coming.

Alistair C. will cover bee-keeping.

Members of St Andrews will be on hand to work in kitchen and serve teas, since coffee mornings are weekly events in their halls. Entry £2, children 50p.

Any other ideas for stalls to Jim M asap – phone him on 01436 673021
5. Feedback from Eco Congregation AGM Sat 20th April

Margaret N, Margaret N and Anne P had attended. Venue had been excellent – Grassmarket Regeneration Project. The Theme was food and Rev Liz Henderson from Craigmillar Cafe in Edinburgh has giving an interesting talk on their experience. A surprising message that it's not the poor who are using ready made meals. Another interesting talk had been about the Whitmuir Community Farm at Lamancha. Margaret H passing on details to Debbie at Townhead. On funding congregations advised to investigate the Climate Challenge Fund as a possible source for eco-projects.
6. Reports from the churches taken –
 - St Andrew's – not much progress, funding for new halls an issue £2m gap. Small groups within the church are working with Eco Network, but he intends to kick start Eco-Congregation programme shortly.

URC A refurbishment of hall completed with a new insulated floor. Steven stood down from Board of Eco Congregation Scotland at AGM after having served since the beginning . Pleased that Trevor Jamieson, from UR Church, has been appointed Eco-Chaplain. He is visiting Helensburgh on 23rd June to lead the service at 11am, and Steven suggested that we have our own Eco-Gathering with him that afternoon at 2pm in the URC.

Alexandria Parish – planning has started on using the grounds to the rear as a community garden/ allotment. West Dumbarton Council have a Greenspace Office, Linda Adam, who is being very helpful. Fairtrade Cafe and Book room open fortnightly on Saturday morning, a successful venture.

Jamestown – little to report since Margaret N is based in Glasgow at the moment.

St Michaels – have applied for 1st Award. Waiting for inspection date from Edinburgh. Steven acknowledged that he'd been approached but felt it was too close for him. There does seem to be an issue in finding assessors for our area.

7. Discussion on what churches did on food waste. Felt it was generally not a problem, since those that brought the food usually took it away if not used. Margaret N had more details on deals for airblade hand –driers. Information is available on the eco-congregation website about a company in Edinburgh who will supply the to churches at a discount.
<http://www.ecocongregationscotland.org/news/special-offer-for-eco-congregations-on-the-dyson-airblade-hand-dryer/>
8. Margaret W asked that Maura Chadwin, St Josphes RC church be added to the circulation.
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9. Next meetings:- Sunday 23rd June 2pm at URC with Trevor Jamieson.
Wednesday 4th Sept 10:30pm URC (need a chairperson!)