



newsletter

eco-congregation
(England & Wales)

Special points of interest:

- Stories from latest Award winners
- Information on latest resources
- Opportunity to be involved in pilot scheme on energy efficiency
- Were we swindled by the Great Global Warming Swindle? Sir John Houghton responds
- Church Times Green Awards—open to all Eco-congregation churches!

Eco-congregation Award winners

- Bramford Road Methodist Church**
- Mount Pleasant Methodist Church, Sandbach**
- Christchurch Hitchin**
- Bromyard Road Methodist Church, Worcester**
- Church of the Martyrs, Leicester**

Congratulations to these Award winning churches! The extent of their work is fantastic. Here are some examples:

- survey of the congregation to find out their environmental awareness
- annual visits to local nature reserves
- cycle parking provided at church
- letter writing session to local council about plastic recycling
- use of natural materials in worship (composting sins and regrets)
- potting up plants in worship
- Harvest garden tidy, which brought non-members into church
- using local food for breakfast service has brought positive comments from visitors
- signed up for project to monitor energy and water use with local Energy Agency
- all organisations using church buildings asked to take part in various schemes including:
 - recycling (paper, plastic bottles, cans, stamps, mobiles, cartridges, clothing, shoes)
 - transport (cycle stands installed, car share Sunday, car sharing, talk from travel plan officer)
- carried out survey in local pub to find out how much people were recycling, and then lobbied local council on the strength of the survey

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Gaining the Eco-congregation Award is a boost to church members who have worked hard to achieve such a lot. It is also an opportunity to communicate good news to the local community. Many people are concerned about environmental issues, and are delighted when they discover that the church is getting active.

New resources for bringing climate change issues into worship

The Heat is On—this is an excellent resource from A Rocha UK, dealing with climate change. There are powerpoint presentations for churches, for a school assembly, Bible study notes, meditations, service outlines, notes for preachers. It is packed with an enormous amount to help you raise the issue in your church situation. It is available now in time for Environment Sunday (the Sunday nearest to World Environment Day which is June 5th) but it is suitable to use at any time.

Order on line at www.arocha.org.uk or send a letter of request for the 'Heat is On' pack to: A Rocha UK, 13 Avenue Road, Southall, Middlesex UB1 3BL enclosing a cheque for £10 payable to 'A Rocha UK'.

Walking more Lightly—Anne Martin from the United Reformed Church has produced a succinct set of resources including worship suggestions and the background to the issues. She has kindly made this available to anyone who wants to use them for free from the Eco-congregation website: www.ecocongregation.org/englandwales (see under 'Latest News' or from the Module 2 page, under 'Free Resources')

Reducing your church carbon footprint—help available

Ecoflow: Conditioners for fuel

A simple, cost effective way to reduce consumption and lower emission levels for all gas and oil fired heating and other burner systems has been pioneered by Cornish-based manufacturer Ecoflow plc. The first of their Ecoflow® range of fuel and water conditioning products was introduced in 1991.

“Ecoflows” are widely used in domestic, commercial and industrial applications throughout Europe and over 600,000 units have been supplied to date. Lincolnshire based Distributor Tony Price of Roseudgeon Enterprises

has made a speciality of installing these in Churches and other ecclesiastical premises with reported savings in consumption of between 10 and 20%.

The units, known as Thermoflows and Energyflows, which work on the basis of magnetic ionisation of the fuel supply, simply clamp onto the fuel supply line, require no alteration to any existing apparatus, are power and maintenance free and will last indefinitely. Roseudgeon Enterprises and its associates would like to extend the benefits of these products to Churches of all denominations across the UK and in co-operation with Eco-Congregation, would like to set up a pilot project to test the

products. Interested parties are therefore invited to contact Tony Price on 01472 399476 or 07833 551209 or e-mail tonys.price@virgin.net.

For monitoring purposes, the following conditions should apply:

- The installation should be gas-fired
- The participant should be in a position to take daily meter readings
- The heating system should be in regular i.e. daily use

Do contact Tony Price direct if you would like to be a pilot church for this.



Dealing with transport for church members and the community

*Do you need a travel plan for your church?
How could you encourage more efficient use of transport in your community?*

Maps for your church

Caroline Pomeroy is a long time supporter of A Rocha, and works at Cycle City Guides, developing maps for cyclists around the country. She also is developing their travel plan business. She would really love to work with bigger churches looking to develop a travel plan, either voluntarily or as a condition of planning permission for extension/new buildings. If you need this kind of advice,

or a more straightforward cycle/walking/bus map based on your church in order to encourage people to use more sustainable forms of transport, do contact Caroline via the websites: www.cyclecityguides.co.uk www.travel-sense.co.uk or by phone on 01373 453533.

Car Share Clubs

What about setting up a car share scheme, or lift share

scheme at church? In car clubs, households join and then have access to a vehicle for as short a time as one hour, paying all costs up front. With lift share schemes, those with space offer those needing a lift that space in their car.

Websites to look at are:

www.carplus.org.uk

www.carshare.com

Local events this summer

St David's Eastham, Wirral

Saturday 9th and Sunday 10th June 2007: Environmental Awareness Weekend at St. David's URC, Mill Park Drive, Eastham, Wirral. Displays, fair trade refreshments and children's activities 10am-4pm Sat, 2-4pm Sun. SWAP day Sat 10am-2pm - bring your unused household goods, leave them for someone else to take away, collect something you need - all FREE.

Wylde Green URC, Birmingham

Wylde Green URC green group will have a green stall at Sutton Coldfield Carnival in Sutton Park at the Town Gate on 23rd/24th June 2007. 10 am to 4 pm.

Exhibitions on climate change, calculate your carbon footprint, metal recycling, other green resources.

Sutton Coldfield Railway station is about a mile away.

Could your church run an 'eco-fair', getting together local environmental groups to equip and inform your local community?

How about joining with www.saveourplanetday.co.uk on 07/07/07 (next year it will be on 08/08/08, and so on) to reach out into the local community? This is an idea from Gloucestershire: contact Dr Jonathan Whittaker on 079707 10537 or email on J_Whittaker28@hotmail.com for more information.



Selling local produce at Emmanuel Church's eco fair in Loughborough

New Holiday club material from Scripture Union: Wastewatchers

Waste Watchers

This year's holiday club material from Scripture Union is a departure from the norm!

Working closely with A Rocha, a Christian nature conservation organisation, the result is a celebration of creation and a call to respond by caring for God's world. With five sessions based on John's Gospel, there are all the usual elements you'd expect – Bible discovery, activities, drama, stories, prayer. But alongside that are ideas for getting involved in environmental pro-

jects to help the local community and make a difference. It couldn't be more topical!

A DVD (with storytelling episodes, additional resources and a team training feature) is available as well as the Little Green Pages for each child. You can read more about it at www.scriptureunion.org.uk/wastewatchers

If it is too late for this year, why not begin thinking now about how you could involve the whole

church in bringing this message to young people who come to your 2008 holiday club? This could be a great way to bring home the relevance of caring for creation for outreach and mission.

Don't forget that there is a lot of material on the A Rocha UK Environment Sunday pack: **The Heat is On** for use with young people, including a suggestion for looking at climate change in school assemblies. Contact the A Rocha office: 020 8574 5935.



St Michael's Preston have got their recycling sorted!



Development Agencies provide Climate change resources

Tearfund, Christian Aid, World Development Movement, Oxfam and other agencies are getting on board with climate change. They have to, because those most affected by it are in the poorest regions of the planet.

If you are looking for ways to get climate change on the agenda with your church, then perhaps using materials from a development agency might be a way in.

Tearfund has launched its climate change challenge—urging churches and individuals to make serious changes to habits and lifestyles. Called 'Don't be Derek' it includes loads of resources (powerpoint presentations, online interactive house, and 4 areas for energy efficient action: home, church, travel and campaigning).

Christian Aid's Cut the Carbon

march could be passing through your locality—contact your local Christian Aid office to see how you can mobilise people to be involved. 14th July—11th October www.pressureworks.org

*“Christian Aid's Cut the Carbon march could be passing through your locality”
Could your church get involved?*

Global Warming Swindle—debunked by Sir John Houghton

Many of you may have seen the Channel 4 programme 'The Great Global Warming Swindle'.

It has caused controversy because of its assertion that global warming may not be attributable to human causes. This is the view of a tiny minority of scientists, the overwhelming majority of whom say that it is almost certain that the causes of climate change are humanity's actions over the last 200 years.

Sir John Houghton wrote a swift rebuttal to the claims of the pro-

gramme, and that is available from the John Ray Initiative website: www.jri.org.uk

The main points to note are:

- The film makers looked at issues which were addressed in the scientific literature some years ago
- One contributor to the programme has complained that his comments were taken out of context
- Although activity on the sun's surface do have some impact on climate, they are not the main driver behind climate

changes in the 20th century

- The claim that volcanoes emit more CO₂ than fossil fuel burning is not true
- Accusations about the scientific process of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change stifling debate are strongly refuted by Sir John, who co-chaired the IPCC for 14 years.

This programme has been widely criticised by the scientific community. Its claims need refuting, and we need to take action now to reduce the impact of climate change.



Operation Noah is the churches' climate change campaign.

www.operationnoah.org

Lots of resources for getting the message across!



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Stoneleigh Park
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CV8 2LZ

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E-mail: ecocongregation@arocha.org

The Churches' Environmental Programme

Eco-congregation provides a framework to get churches involved with environmental issues. Start with the church check-up (module 1), draw up an action plan, download the modules, get on with the work, and then apply for the Award!

Set up initially in partnership with Encams, it is now a project of A Rocha UK

13 Avenue Road
Southall
Middlesex UB1 3BL
Registered Charity 1089276

The Eco-congregation office is at Arthur Rank Centre, Stoneleigh Park, Warwickshire.

All material is freely available from the website:

www.ecocongregation.org/englandwales

It is helpful if you register your church after working through the church check-up (so that we can build up a national picture), and receiving the Award is a way to publicise your activities, and encourage other churches to get involved!

Find more resources on the web:

www.ecocongregation.org/englandwales



Church Times Green Church Awards

Do you want to get your story out there to inspire others? Why not enter the Church

Times Green Church Awards— You might be shortlisted and have your story showcased in the Church Times.

The Green Church Awards celebrates what churches and individuals have done to help make the planet a place of safety and justice. Key players in the Christian environmental organizations have come together to create and judge the awards which aim to highlight the outstanding work being done by many churches in the UK.

Deadline: 30 June

The different awards are:

- Action with the community
- Biodiversity
- Campaigning to cut the carbon
- Celebrating creation
- Changing lifestyles
- Energy-saving in church buildings
- International action
- Young people
- Overall award: best of the best

Prizes include cash to help achieve even more in your

church, and advice from experts.

Download the application form from www.greenchurchawards.org

Anyone can apply—it is open to all comers! Don't feel that because you have received an Eco-congregation Award that you can't participate! See it as another opportunity to celebrate the work you have been doing in your church!

Open to all denominations.