

St David's Church Exeter Green Team Meeting: January 28th 2020

Present: Sue Wilson, Clive Wilson, Emma White, Dave Allin, Glynis Harflett, Richard Featherstone, Jeremy Lawford, Paula Lawford, Neil Pragnell, Barabara Allin, Sarah Rimington, Sue Holden, Hilary Todd, Roger Beer

Apologies: Alistair MacIntosh, Jean Thomas, Charlotte Townsend, Nigel Guthrie

Clive Wilson took the chair

Aims

Overall aims of project were twofold: to make progress towards becoming an Eco Church, and to inspire individuals/give them ideas/raise awareness of how to lead a more sustainable/green life.

Aim for this meeting was to evolve a way forward.

Discussion:

Need to be realistic about what we can achieve when/aware of limitations.

Raise awareness of what people are already doing e.g. planting trees in their own garden/sharing knowledge.

Issues for information sharing: eg planting wildflower meadows, trees.

Eco Church status

A long way from achieving this at present. Realistic timescale likely to be 6 months to a year. 3 levels (Gold/Silver/Bronze). Supported across the board (not just Church of England).

Mission statement includes 5 key areas of focus:

Worship and teaching (issues include communications, youth groups and children). Charlotte to be asked to take this to the Ministry Team.

Management of church buildings (issues include heating, lighting, energy suppliers, double glazing, floodlighting, water supply/toilets, recycling). Think about how to exert pressure on the Parish Buying Scheme. Dave to look at questionnaire for building issues.

Management of church land: issues for churchyard include immediate need to remove weeds from around base of church; investigation of wildflower planting and how to support wildlife/promote biodiversity (a priority for the City Council). Woodland Trust scheme also relevant (tree planting?) Problems with drug use in churchyard – needles etc. make it unsafe as a place to involve younger people.

Community and global engagement: Glynis to compile a list of events/themed weeks, to keep people informed. Details to be sent to her.

Lifestyle: promotion, communication, footprint audit, lifestyle tips.

Further details from website at <https://ecochurch.arocha.org.uk/how-eco-church-works/>.

See also: A Rocha UK5 core commitments - Christian, Conservation, Community, Cross-cultural, cooperation. More at <https://arocha.org.uk/about-us/>

Funding

Diocese likely to be supportive but unlikely to have any funds available. However, awareness has risen radically in the last couple of years, so funds could become available from somewhere. This is an issue where the public are ahead of politicians.

Early priorities/ Next steps

Do easy things first, so as to gain momentum and promote engagement.

Keep the congregation involved – shouldn't all fall on the shoulders of the Green Team.

Interviews in magazines (Hilary)

Greening inside of church (Helen Friend/Helen Hopwood?)

Weeding day soon and then more all-round garden team activity (Paula/Hilary, plus discussion with NG at PCC (Possible dates: after men's breakfast)).

Status of wild garden?

Information gathering/sharing (will need to be organised):

Travel to church (lift rotas, cycle routes, cycle racks, bikes/e-bikes, 'walking bus')
(Sue W)

Guppy bag/cora ball for washing

Cleaning products used in church: refillable/biodegradable? (Chemicals audit – Glynis)

Take 5 for Lent (someone needs to speak to NG)

Standing agenda item for PCC?

Green suggestions box

Clothes/book swap

Skills auction

Tools and handyman sale

Clive and Sue are attending Green Day at Cathedral 22 February. Sarah to attend too (and will let CW/SW know what workshops she'll be covering). Parish Buying Scheme inflexibility re. green suppliers to be raised in this context.

Date of next meeting

Tuesday 24th March at 7.30pm.