



The EnvironmNET *A dolphin-friendly NET*



Welcome

It's been a busy year in the Eco Group, and 2016 is shaping up to be just as eventful! We are hoping to apply for our first eco award, and there's still a few things to do in order for us to be successful. In this condensed issue of the EnvironmNET, we'll review our achievements of 2015 and look at what other churches in Edinburgh have done to achieve their award. We also take a look at the ongoing climate talks in Paris. Don't forget there's lots of Eco Christmas tips in our first issue – if you don't have a copy you can find one on the PPC Website, or ask one of us to print a copy for you.

We hope you have a fantastic Christmas, and wish you all the best for 2016!

Cameron, Robert, Andrew, Susie & Jen.

Latest News

by Cameron Campbell

We have established a number of targets that we hope to achieve over the next 6 months in order for us to apply for our first award. These are displayed on the notice board opposite the Choir Room, and we've also put a copy on p4 of this issue.

Plans are in place to enhance the number of items that can be recycled in church – new containers will be out soon!

We are also hoping to hold a Forum session based on The Green Bible, climate change, and related topics before the summer.

We are looking for some new members to join the Eco Group. If you're interested, please do come along to our next

meeting: **Wednesday 13th January at 7.30pm.** We'd love to see you there!



Review of the Year: 2015

by Andrew Drysdale

This year Priestfield has made progress in a number of areas as we work towards our first Eco Congregation Award. The Eco group is very grateful for the support of the wider congregation in taking forward a number of these initiatives:

- The children and adults of Godspace have begun an adopt-an-animal initiative

- The first edition of the EnvironmNET was published in December 2014
- We have established the collection of biscuit wrappers to send for recycling. We have already sent away 600g of collected wrappers and we got £14.64 back
- Recycling improvements within the church
- We have now twinned all three of our Church toilets with ones in Bangladesh and Afghanistan
- The group led a Stewardship Service in April 2015 which was very successful

- Messy Church in September was based on Harvest and Creation themes
- Work has started on a temperature monitoring initiative, and discussions are ongoing about insulation and the church garden works



The Eco Award
by Jen Cresswell

Priestfield will be applying for an Eco Church Award soon and to help us with this we approached Greyfriars Kirk. There were some great innovative ideas that helped reduce their carbon footprint:

- They employ the use of portable heaters and selective lights for localised use, instead of heating or lighting the whole sanctuary when only one part is required, for example stage lighting.
- Gas readings are taken and published frequently to make the building's users aware of the environmental and financial cost of usage.

Greyfriars also make great use of their green spaces by composting and allowing the Kirkyard to be used as a garden. They also use it as a skills

training area for people at the nearby Grassmarket Community Project. This spreads the Christian message of both stewardship of the land as well as helping our fellow people.

We believe we can adopt some of these ideas at Priestfield in the future and would love to hear your thoughts on what we should do.



COP21
by Robert Kimmitt

At the time of writing, the COP21 climate change conference in Paris is ongoing - this is the most important climate change summit this decade and may well prove to be a pivotal moment in history, in terms of how the worldwide community attempts to deal with the problem of climate change.

From November 30th until December 11th, representatives from over 190 countries are meeting to discuss a possible new deal on climate change and greenhouse gas emissions in particular. This is mainly because previous greenhouse gas emission targets expire in 2020, so new global agreements need to be made to further restrict these emissions.

Although the conference hasn't finished yet, it looks as though the EU has committed to cutting emissions by 40% (compared to 1990 levels) by 2030. Meanwhile, the US aims to reduce emissions by 26-28% (compared to 2005 levels) by 2025. China, as an economy continuing to develop rapidly with associated rising carbon emissions, looks set to agree that their emissions will peak in 2030.

The countries contributing to over 90% of all emissions have come to their agreements, which scientists believe will restrict global warming to 2.7-3°C. Sadly, this is level of global warming is still likely to do a lot of damage, and our emissions restrictions are not as good as the scientific community has advised. The Paris agreement, however, intends to institute a system that reviews these targets every 5 years, with the hope of further limiting emissions as targets become close to being met.

Another key issue is that of richer countries providing finance to poorer countries to allow them to invest in cleaner energies to avoid rising emissions. Many commentators think this is only fair - our "developed" countries were only able to develop through very environmentally-unfriendly processes involving lots of fossil fuel use and ultimately lots of greenhouse gas emission. In addition, it

tends to be poorer countries that bear the brunt of the damage already being done by climate change, such as floods, storms and droughts, so financial help is also requested to allow adaptations to be made to deal with this damage.

At the time of writing, the deal for poorer countries is yet to be agreed, with ongoing negotiations to decide exactly how much aid is to be pledged and where it will come from. We can only pray that satisfying solutions are found, and that the targets agreed upon at COP21 in Paris are met in the long-term.



On the Climate March

by Susie Martin

When Chris and I went on the Climate Change walk on Saturday 28 November, it was dry and bright, though umbrellas were ready. Now here we are on the "last" day of the summit in Paris (11 December), but they have agreed to postpone the conclusion until tomorrow, so that by all possible means (legal, just, and honourable we hope) there may be a universal deal concluded by then. So KEEP praying!

'According to the organizing committee, the objective of the 2015 conference is to achieve, for the first time in over 20 years of UN negotiations, a binding and universal agreement on climate, from all the nations of the world.

Pope Francis published an encyclical called *Laudato si'* intended, in part, to influence the conference. The encyclical calls for action against climate change. The International Trade Union Confederation has called for the goal to be "zero carbon, zero poverty", and the general secretary Sharan Burrow has repeated that there are "no jobs on a dead planet". Surely we all agree on these aims.

For the march, we met with thousands on Middle Meadow Walk, having been at a talk/Service in the lovely, modern RC chapel hidden between the Walk and George Square, entered through the RC Chaplaincy in the Square. The Chapel was packed, so we barely squeezed in at the very back, just able to hear Prof. Alexander Macintosh, freelance writer and campaigner, who spoke powerfully on the pressing need to address issues of global warming. We sang a couple of suitable hymns, assembled at The Walk, and set off. Most folk and some dogs were dressed in brightly coloured outfits, lots carrying banners with varying ideals displayed but ALL for doing our utmost to save God's planet.

We walked up to the High Street, down the Mound, and into Princes Street Gardens. We must have disrupted the traffic – but the road was ours. Chris and I met various people we knew and others we didn't but got to know on the march. Jenny came up to us, saying she was with Robert's parents; we met a couple from Glasgow; Chris walked with a Rev. Professor of Theology (Ethics). By the time we reached the Gardens, having felt largely at one with the whole event, we felt it was time for us to move on, leaving behind the rain and music of the rally on the stage.

We knew that others were walking to Paris from parts of Britain and other countries. These walks, I believe, were cancelled because of the terrorist attacks in Paris, but we hope to have made our strong wishes and attitudes felt in solidarity with those, especially in underdeveloped countries, who suffer so much from changing weather patterns, and that the authorities take note.

Meanwhile, parts of Britain have been flooded several times. We MUST adapt! KEEP saving, recycling, working towards ZERO waste, and PRAYING to follow our Creator's promptings!



Priestfield Parish Church Eco Congregation Group First Award Action Plan Short-Term (2015/2016)

***We are hoping to submit our application for the first Eco-Congregation award by the end of this academic year.
Below is a list of what we have done so far, or still have to do, in order to achieve it.***

Award Criteria	We have...	We will...
Mechanism for informing the whole congregation about work planned or undertaken (e.g. notice board / church magazine / website)?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commenced the twice-yearly publication of the EnvironmNET Reports of our work are noted at the Kirk Session meetings 	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>By December 2015:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase the use of screens around the church to advertise our next steps Introduce regular "eco-news" segments in Connections
Taking steps to publicise the environmental work of the church to the wider community (e.g. articles in local newspaper)?		<p style="text-align: center;"><i>By December 2015:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Communicate our work through a local or church newsletter
Activities undertaken to help the whole congregation make the link between their Christian faith and environmental concerns (e.g. special Sunday services, Bible study groups).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Led the Stewardship Service on 26th April, with an environmental theme Continued the encouragement of recycling by all users of the church building 	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>By April 2016:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Have held at least one study session looking at environmental messages within the Bible
Plans for the future to further help the congregation link environmental care and Christian discipleship?		<p style="text-align: center;"><i>By April 2016:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conduct another Stewardship service building on the themes introduced before Hold a special Café Time related to our work
Activities / projects undertaken to take practical action in church and/or church grounds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Noted the reduction in use of disposable cups following the re-modelling of the Lounge Assisted with the education and labelling of recycling facilities Purchased materials to commence a review of church temperatures Welcomed the introduction of bark chips rather than concrete paving stones at the front of the church 	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>By March 2016:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completed our temperature monitoring programme and reviewed the results Undertaken a review of the Carbon Footprint of the Church
Plans for the future to further take practical action?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Established Long Term Goals for the Church Garden and Insulation schemes 	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>By March 2016:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undertake a review of church paper usage and use results to establish a way to reduce our paper consumption
Activities / projects undertaken to have a positive impact on (and/or involves working with) the local and wider community (e.g. involvement with and contribution to your local Eco-Congregation Network)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Incorporation of environmental themes in Messy Church (e.g. Harvest 2015) 	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>By April 2016:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attend at least one event held by the Church of Scotland Eco-Congregation Network Establish a Recycling HUB within the church for all church users.
Future plans to further serve the local/global community?		<p style="text-align: center;"><i>During 2016/2017 Session:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hold more coffee mornings to raise awareness of our activities Attend external events e.g. Tearfund Rally (November 2015) to show our support to the environment
Taking measurements of the church's Carbon Footprint		<p style="text-align: center;"><i>By January 2016:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commence an annual monitoring programme
Plans for reducing the carbon footprint of the church/work already undertaken to do so.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Emphasised the importance of switching off lights, heaters and taps in unoccupied rooms 	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Long-Term Goals:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve the insulation and heating efficiency of the church Continue to make PPC an environmentally-friendly congregation