

Notes from the Eco Circuit Meeting Tuesday 7th March

Present – Jo Godfrey, Bryony Thomas, Steve Thomas, Freda Cammack

Apologies for absence – John Winterbottom

The meeting began with a prayer.

1. Update from the churches:

Lime Walk

- All the toilets and two taps have been twinned following a successful coffee morning in October.
- An environmental charity, WaterAid has been included in this year's projects and £335 has been raised.
- Cycle racks have been installed at the front of the church, thanks to parents from the ballet class.
- The 360 degree carbon survey, recommended by the Methodist Church, as part of the Eco Church questionnaire, has been completed with regard to energy usage.
- 4 members of the church are taking part in the OxClean spring litter pickup in March.
- Lots of things ongoing – Fairtrade status, use of environmentally friendly cleaning products, sustainability initiative for Lent.
- Things in the pipeline – Visit from an energy consultant 23rd March, installing a water meter, communal Easter card.

Wesley Memorial

- We have had a visit from energy consultant to look into improving the energy efficiency of our heating and also alternative forms of green energy and are waiting for the report.
- We have had a carbon footprint audit done and have set targets for carbon reduction.
- We are continuing to develop our Eco Church Garden.

2. We shared the dilemma we have between being cost effective and being Eco friendly with Fairtrade products and eco cleaning materials.

We would welcome guidance from the Circuit on these matters.

3. Quarry Churchyard.

Freda, Heather and the team monitoring the churchyard feel they have done as much as they can without further support to move this project forward. They have been making observations of the plants growing there for two years.

Jo contacted an ecologist who has done some work in Littlemore churchyard and she recommended an organisation called Caring for God's Acre. For a fee they will do a site visit:

Site Visit and Management Brief

An experienced member of staff will visit your burial ground and give you specific advice for your site. This will be followed by a Site Management Brief and printed support materials

It will consist of CfGA:

Undertaking a basic survey of your grassland

Finding out what burial ground management you are currently undertaking

Discussing the options your site provides for preserving and enhancing both the built and natural heritage

Providing verbal advice on the day on the next best steps

Producing a Site Management Brief – including a basic site management map, grassland species list, management notes, annual work plan, three year work plan and further reading

Ongoing e-mail and telephone support

Printed materials – x 1 Action Pack, x 5 Botanical Companions, x 5 Field Studies Council Leaflets, x 1 DVD, x 20 fold out management posters

We can meet with a few people or the wider community, you decide.

*As part of this package your burial ground group will be given a year's free **group membership**.*

Cost £800, plus travel expenses

The Eco Circuit team would like to employ the services of a Caring for God's Acre member of staff and ask for a grant of £800 plus travel expenses from the Circuit to cover the cost of this.

Our reasons for this are;

- We do not have the relevant expertise in the Circuit to move the project forward.
- From this we will have a three-year work plan. This will give us guidance to be able to share with the gardener and others who want to be involved.
- £800 spread over three years is value for money.
- It will enable us to learn from an expert and perhaps apply this knowledge to other areas of the Circuit.

4. Display for the District Synod

The District Synod takes place on Saturday 22nd April and we are putting together an Eco Circuit display for this. Each church in the Circuit is hopefully contributing one thing to the display. I need photographs and objects to make the display, by Monday 17th April.

Ideas:

- **Lime Walk** – information about toilet twinning and Ecover products, including some examples of products and Who Gives a Crap toilet paper.
- **Wesley Mem** – Eco Church garden photos.
- **Quarry Churchyard** – photos
- **Kidlington** – Terracycle (I can take information and pictures from the Circuit website)
- **Pictures of electric Vehicle event**
- **Great Milton** – smart electricity meter?
- **Kennington** – Switching to green electricity supplier?
- **Rose Hill**- Open Doors Café (warm welcome space)?
- **Watlington** – Eco Church Service?
- **Woodstock?**
- **Bladon?**
- **Tackley?**

5. The meeting closed with the Grace.