

Eco-update for Church Meeting, 17 May 2007

At the November meeting we were asked to look at the “Our Stewardship of Creation” statement on behalf of the church.

We have spent some time, both as a group and in conjunction with Kevin, exploring an audit produced by eco-congregations. It looks at a wide range of activities in church life including:-

- worship
- church gardens and land
- personal lifestyles

We were very concerned to look at these issues in the light of our current commitments/priorities:-

- new entrance
- our mission to Birkin Fields and our local community
- Hope 2008
- developing the area at the back of the building

and in such a way as to not add an extra “burden” on anyone

The audit highlighted many things we are doing, eg eco-friendly light bulbs, worshipping God as the Creator and Sustainer of our planet, fair trade.

We chose a number of modules, to explore further, (but not all at once), which fitted in with the above:-

- Church premises
- Church garden and land
- Personal lifestyles
- Links with the community

We have already committed ourselves to a statement in our handbook and many of us have committed ourselves to the Micah Challenge, where we acknowledge our actions can affect others both locally and abroad:- “act justly, love mercy and walk humbly...”

Looking at Eco-congregation modules is just a framework to help us consider whether we have considered the environmental issues/impact of our actions:-

- **The land at the back of church**
 - how could we provide environment for wildlife
 - be sustainable in terms of water
 - how it can be used as “quiet space” by the community
- **Recycling**
- **New entrance** – considering heat saving and access for the community around us.
- **New developments** – in any new developments to consider the ecological impact
- **Explore “Eco-teams”** – Lynn A is now a eco-team facilitator. We could develop this within our church, and/or neighbourhood

The modules are not about ticking boxes or reaching a set target but about making small steps as a congregation and as individuals to put our stewardship into action.

Lynn Addison, Margaret Brasier & Judith Dare, May 2007