

Laudato Si' Meeting, 1 December 2020

Present: Mark Wiggin, Anthony Brown, Betty Collinson, Grace Fellows, Susan Fellows, Dominic Aunger, Bob Turner (Cambodia Craft), Kathryn Wilkinson (St Michael and St John's Primary School)

Apologies: Joan Leeming, Ann Cooke, Sheila Shore

Notes from the last meeting:

There had been initial discussion between OLOTV and the primary schools but action was in abeyance due to Covid as it was with just about everything else on the action list.

Anthony had agreed storage space for eco-bricks under the church with Arnold Marsden.

In the absence of easy access to a plan of the church grounds we would do a simple survey with a tape which would be easy enough as the alignment of the grounds is linear.

Mark had made some initial enquiries with the Diocese about the cost of recycling and would pursue further.

Northern Diocese Environmental Group Meeting 4 November:

Mark reported on the Northern Diocese Environment Group meeting and extended an invitation to the group. Some key points:

Joe Howson is working on a new project –'The Wonder of Creation' a series of 7 films on nature.

The UK will host the 26th UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26) in Glasgow in November 2021. The climate talks will bring together heads of state, climate experts and campaigners to agree coordinated action to tackle climate change. We need to prepare.

The Government's plan to cut the aid budget from 0.7% to 0.5% of GDP and move the Department for International Development to the Foreign Office is a weakening of UK commitment to global poverty at a time of pandemic

The Diocese has appointed Emma Gardener as Head of Environment and the Laudato Si project. Her role is:

- Leading transformation in keeping with Pope Francis's Laudato Si Encyclical and providing strategic leadership and direction to support the delivery of environmental practices across the Diocese of Salford and beyond
- Developing, implementing, and maintaining the environmental policy and strategies of the Diocese, alongside programmes to support transformation
- Managing the development and maintenance of the Laudato Si Centre, the Flagship Centre for the Diocese
- Developing and nurturing a range of partnerships to support environmental research, communication, education, and business operations

Her priorities:

- Ensuring that all environmental practices are rooted in the message of the Laudato Si Encyclical and Catholic social teaching.
- Providing effective strategic leadership and planning across the Diocese and developing Environmental Policy, Strategy and Plans.
- Leading the development and delivery of research and educational programmes from the Laudato Si Centre, with diverse stakeholders across the Diocese and beyond.
- Developing and nurturing a range of partnerships to deliver environmental practices and associated human transformation, and to support environmental research, communication, and education
- Acting as a champion for environmental issues and providing information, training, and presentations on the themes of Laudato Si, together with practical advice to parishes, schools, and other groups within the Diocese.

Update from St Michael and St John's Primary School:

Kathryn Wilkinson reported that the school had started drawing a CAFOD Live Simply Action Plan which would be independent of the Church. However the school would link up with the Church on recycling bins.

In addition to their Live Simply Plan the school has an Eco-Club with eco-warriors in all year groups and they will aim to complete the seven steps outlined on the ECO-Schools website.

Bob Turner would help with the setting up of eco-brick projects and has a PowerPoint presentation which he could use for assemblies at St Michael and St John's and also at St Mary's, Sabden. There could also be Zoom/on-line sessions.

The school was collecting for the Salvation Army Christmas Toy Appeal.

News Round:

Anthony hoped that the Parish and School could make good use of the Church grounds which the Laudato Si' Group had explored with Fr John who had given permission to make use of the grounds wherever it was best suited. Anthony offered the school as much storage space as they needed for eco-bricks under the Church.

Grace continues her Live Simply Thought for the Week input to the Parish Newsletter and said that people had come up with ideas. Janet Clegg had 30 or so items which she could fall back on in the event of Grace not submitting her chosen one for the week.

Dominic updated on CAFOD International and campaigning with on-line petitions. In particular there was concern about the UK Government continuing to finance fossil fuel projects overseas, which is contrary to the proposed 'New Green Deal' being launched here in the UK. By funding fossil fuels through UK aid and export finance, not only is the UK undermining its credibility, it is putting the lives of vulnerable communities at risk.

Dominic alerted us to the [CAFOD Send a Message to the Brave](#) initiative. The Brave are human rights defenders and environmental activists across the world who are risking everything to defend our brothers and sisters and protect our common home. You can also look at the CAFOD website to view their latest petitions.

In order to ensure our defenders receive their messages by Christmas, please ensure Christmas cards are posted before 7 December and online messages before 19 December.

Susan said that for Parish events that they organised they took away their waste for recycling where possible. As a supply teacher she said that the schools she served had recycling bins but emptying them was sometimes a problem.

Kathryn asked about sharing newsletter items between school and parish and Anthony said he would explore the mechanics and timing of this. OLOTV newsletters are weekly.

Environmental Input (Bob Turner):

Bob Turner gives talks on environmental issues and in particular to schools where he also advises and assists in environmental projects. Bob started by telling us about developments in recycling and non-usage of plastic.

Recycling

Crisp packets, pens, toothpaste tubes, razor blades are all things that can be recycled if not easily or locally. [Terracycle](#) list places that will take different types of difficult to recycle waste

The [Medicine Packet Recycling Programme](#) recycles medicine blister packs and is looking for pharmacies as collection points. Items could be collected at church /school and taken to a local point. Could Eco Children ask around for a pharmacist?

Green Theory next to the United Reform Church in Clitheroe is a community shop selling nutritious foods and household goods all free from plastic packaging.

Composting

Uncooked veg trimmings wrapped in newspaper and taken into school can be an introduction to composting and aid an understanding of green and brown. There is plenty of information on the net.

There is also a green cone which is a Bokashi method of composting developed in Japan that uses microbes to decompose food, effectively fermenting it so that it doesn't smell as it is breaking down. Besides lack of smell, another advantage with bokashi is that all food, including meat, fish and dairy, can be composed with this system..

PowerPoint

Bob ran through of the PowerPoint he uses in schools. School children are at an age when they can still make a change. He has worked with many schools in Lancashire, Greater

Manchester and further afield where his main theme is the construction of raised beds, outdoor classrooms and sheds using eco-bricks as the main structural component. Plastic milk bottles need protecting from photo degradation using hessian or willow screen.

Wardley Hall is being developed as an environmental project which also features eco-bricks.

Practical exercises such as these make a major contribution to awareness raising.

Next meeting

The next meeting will be in January, date to be arranged.