

**St Peter's Church**

**An environmental  
check-up**

**(Based on the Eco-  
Congregation  
environmental toolkit  
for churches)**

**Undertaken in 2007**

## Introduction

Over the last five months a group of volunteers, who have become known as the 'Green Team', have considered how St Peter's Church engages with environmental issues.

Members of the 'Green Team' are;

- Dennis Parker
- Tom Wilson
- Mary Brentnall
- Nigel Pate
- Ruth Calthrop
- Sally Martin
- Mark Robins

## About the 'check-up'

Eco-congregation is the Churches' Environmental Programme (Appendix A of this report explains Eco-congregation's background and purpose). Eco-congregation recommends that any church wanting to 'go greener' starts with a review of its existing achievements on environmental issues. The check-up is designed to help churches:

1. Identify and affirm their existing environmental ministry
2. Prioritise what they would like to do next and identify supportive resources

The 'Green Team' broadly followed the Eco-congregation checklist as the model for an environmental check-up. A similar approach to an environmental check-up was started in 2002 at St Peter's Church. Five years on, the Green Team has returned to the task, reflecting that:

- St Peter's Church has had a number of changes over the last five years; and
- the prominence of 'green issues' has increased for many parishioners' in their day-to-day lives, for the local community and for wider society.

Eco-congregation can offer step-by-step guidance for a church to take further the priorities that the individual church identifies. St Peter's already holds some of the guidance resources on file. Churches that wish to do so can register and apply for an Eco-Congregation Award for successfully implementing green initiatives on spiritual, practical and community dimensions.

Using the checklist, this report aims to summarise for St Peter's PCC aspects of St Peter's church life in which care for the environment is already practised and promoted. The report also highlights aspects of church life where environmental concerns may be addressed further.

The full Eco-congregation checklist contains 12 modules. These modules cover diverse aspects of church life. Members of the Green Team group have been able to complete the modules in different amounts of detail, reflecting the team member's diverse talents and the resources. After some of the modules there are explanatory notes which give more information about how the provisional views have been reached. The Green Team believes that the report, whilst not covering every module and every aspect of church life, contains sufficient information for the PCC to discuss how St Peter's church may start to further engage with environmental issues.

The Green Team hopes that the PCC will, after considering this report, use it to support the people of St Peter's in developing an action plan to promote further awareness and engagement with environmental issues throughout the work of St Peter's church.

The report starts with Module 1, **The 5 Marks of Mission**, as the framework within which green church issues can be located. There then follow the 11 modules presented as a checklist along with notes where applicable.

# 1, Life and Mission of the Church

The Five Marks of Mission is a model that can help churches identify their strengths and weaknesses. First formulated by the 1988 Lambeth Conference and adopted since by many denominations and ecumenical bodies, it has been widely used in church life. Note your church's activities for each Mark and assess whether care of the environment has sufficient weight within your church's mission:

## Mark of Mission

**Mark 1:** To proclaim the good news of the Kingdom, e.g. preaching.

### Activities at St Peter's Church include:

- weekly church services, including four Sunday services (08.00, 09.30, 11.00 and 18.30), weekday services each Tuesday, and services on festivals (eg Christmas, Easter and saints days);
- preaching by staff team at church services;
- festival services such as Harvest Festival;
- monthly All-age worship;
- baptismal services;
- confirmation classes and services;
- a strong tradition of church music

**Mark 2:** To teach, baptise and nurture new believers, e.g. children's work, membership/Alpha Course.

### Activities at St Peter's Church include:

- Emmaus group;
- Credo group;
- Lent groups;
- Confirmation classes;
- Sunday crèche/Junior Church/Big Breakfast;
- After Eight (youth group);
- Choir for young people and men;
- Parish retreats.

**Mark 3:** To respond to human need by loving service, e.g. pastoral visiting, hospital ministry.

### Activities at St Peter's Church include:

- pastoral visits by the staff team;
- baptismal visiting by volunteers from the baptismal support team;
- support for parents from playgroups (eg Tuesday morning playgroup and Thursday babytime group);
- support for parents from the Mother's Union.

**Mark 4:** To seek to transform unjust structures of society, e.g. supporting a housing charity, promoting fair trade.

**Activities at St Peter's Church include:**

- special events such as Church fun day which raise funds for others;
- annual away giving to a dozen, or more, charities;
- promotion of Fair Trade items as much as possible (eg coffee and tea).

**Mark 5:** To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation; to sustain and renew the life of the earth, e.g. having energy efficient premises, wildlife garden.

The Green Team believes that 'Mark 5' is considered in Modules 2 to 12 below.

## Key

X = statement applicable to St Peter's Church

= statement not applicable to St Peter's Church.

## 2. Worship

Worship is the prime focus of Christian life from which the Church's life and mission flows. All Saint's, West Bromwich have an annual Creation Sunday and a separate 'eau de Nil' or light green service! This section is designed to help you identify how thankfulness and concern for God's creation are expressed in your worship:

**How regularly during the year are environmental concerns included in worship?**

Never

X Occasional services  
e.g. Harvest, Rogation,  
Christian Aid Week,  
Sea Sunday, One World Week.

Frequently

**In your Church's prayer life do you:**

(tick any that apply to your church)

X Praise God the creator

Say sorry for the harm done to the environment?

X Give thanks to God for the gift of creation

X Pray for the healing of creation

**Does your Church connect with God's gift of creation through worship?**

(tick any that apply to your church)

X Through occasional outdoor services (eg Palm Sunday,

X through prayer walks (eg Parish rambles, retreats, Easter Monday  
Pilgrimage, cycling events)

X Using natural materials within worship flowers in church, palms, animals  
(live crib).

choosing organic bread and wine?

**Does your Church sing hymns or songs that celebrate the wonder of creation or express the calling to care for the environment?**

Regularly

X Fairly regularly (e.g.  
in hymns, psalms,  
canticles (eg Benedicite)

Hardly ever

**Module 2, 'Celebrating Creation!' contains ideas and resources for worship  
teams and leaders**

### 3. Theology

Theology is concerned with giving and exploring a rational and orderly account of Christian belief, drawing on Biblical studies, Church tradition and history, ethics and the context in which the Church is present. St Mary the Virgin, Monkseaton, explored aspects of creation/green- theology over a five week period. Does your church:

<b>Yes</b>	<b>Con- sider</b>	<b>Not priority</b>	
X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	have access to Christian environmental books and resources?
<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	participate in or organise study/exploration events that include environmental issues?
X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	include creation/environmental issues in its teaching/preaching programme?

**Module 3, 'Creation and Christianity' contains some eco- or green theological ideas together with suggestions for further reading.**

## 4. Children's work

Christian children's work can inform, inspire and encourage youngsters as they grow in faith. St Mary the Virgin, Easington, arranged an educational visit to the sea for their children, and their children helped plan and participated in an environmental service. Use the check-up to identify if your children's programme (infant and primary age) includes environmental issues and the potential for developing this ministry:

<b>Category of activity</b>	<b>Sometimes</b>	<b>Never</b>	<b>Has potential to develop</b>
Creche/Junior Church/ Big Breakfast	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Uniformed organisations	Not applicable at St Peter's Church		
Playgroups	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
After school/holiday clubs	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
All age worship	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

### **Creche/Junior Church/Big Breakfast**

Sunday morning Creche does not have themes, since most of the children are under 3 years of age.

Junior Church (children aged 3 to 9 years old) took the environment and creation theme in Autumn 2006. Children learnt about God's creation for example by:

- hearing Bible stories such as Genesis;
- planting seeds; and
- drawing creation picture.

There is an ongoing commitment within Junior Church to continue considering environmental issues, for example on special occasions such as Easter.

Sunday morning Big Breakfast (children aged 9 to 14 years old) ... *to be inserted*

### **Uniformed organisations**

St Peter's Church does not have any uniformed organisations such as Scouts or Boys Brigade.

### **Playgroups**

St Peter's Church has several playgroups:

- Tuesday morning pre-school playgroup (from 09.30 to 11.00);
- Baby time for 0 to 18 month olds on Thursday lunchtimes.

The scope for addressing environmental issues with babies and pre-school children is perhaps more limited than with older children. Nonetheless environmental issues are addressed with parents/carers, for example by using Fair Trade tea and coffee.

### **Afterschool/holiday clubs**

The Church Choir at St Peter's Church is very active. Many young people aged 8 years and above sing with the choir each week, and enjoy trips to other churches and abroad. The choir sing a variety of music which reflects the wonders of God's creation, for instance at Harvest Festival.

### **All age worship**

Environmental issues are sometimes addressed in all Age Worship, for example at Harvest festival when thanks are given for the produce of God's creation.

Possible future action: St Peter's Church might pledge to include environmental issues in all age worship a number of times each year (eg three times per year).

**Module 4, 'Acorns to oaks' includes inspiration and ideas for incorporating indoor and outside environmental activities in children's work**

## 5. Youth work

Churches undertake a range of youth work including Sunday focussed groups, church and open youth groups and mid-week uniformed organisations. St Mary Magdalene, Hucknall, designated a corner of their churchyard for a wildlife garden and worked with school children and their youth group to plan, plant and maintain it. If your church undertakes/is planning to develop youth work, review your existing activities and consider future possibilities:

<b>Have done</b>	<b>Could consider</b>	<b>Activities</b>
X	<input type="checkbox"/>	Hold a debate on environmental issues and personal responsibility
<input type="checkbox"/>	X	Develop creation-care material to offer in worship
<input type="checkbox"/>	X	Undertake a practical environmental/conservation project
X	<input type="checkbox"/>	Arrange a ramble(s)
<input type="checkbox"/>	X	Organise an environmentally focussed community event (with young people from a range of churches/organisations?)
<input type="checkbox"/>	X	Assess how environmentally-friendly the church is and make recommendations for action

The 'After 8' youth group has held debates about environmental issues to help young people reflect and learn about environmental issues. The youth group and members of the choir have joined the annual pilgrimage to St Albans Abbey each Easter Monday.

The youth group have actively considered several possible future activities such as further discussions about environmental issues and perhaps planting a 'wild garden' near the church for younger children and others to enjoy.

**Module 5, 'Tread gently – go green' has ideas and activities for youth work.**

## 6. All-age and Adult education

Church is a place where people can grow in faith from cradle to grave. Relating key topics, like environmental issues, with Christian thinking can be inspirational and faith-affirming. St John the Evangelist, C of E/Methodist LEP explored a creation-focused Bible study and their minister led some environmentally-themed assemblies at their local school. What opportunities are or could be available for your church?

Have done	Could do	Not current priority
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- |                          |   |                          |                                                    |
|--------------------------|---|--------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | X | <input type="checkbox"/> | Undertake an environmental Bible study             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | X | <input type="checkbox"/> | Invite a speaker on environmental issues           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | X | <input type="checkbox"/> | Organise/participate in a creation-care lent group |

<b>Module 6, 'Exploring God's green word' includes two sets of Bible studies and an address suitable for house groups or sermon preparation</b>
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## 7. Church property

Good stewardship of energy and maintenance issues can both reduce your Church's impact on the environment and save your Church money, particularly in the long-term. Church of the Ascension, Ealing, commissioned a free environmental consultation and is applying the recommendations in a phased way. Use the check-up to assess your church's current environmental stewardship of property (sanctuary, halls, clergy housing) and the potential for developing this.

Have done	Con-sider	Not priority	
<b>X</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Energy- heating and light</b>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Monitor energy consumption regularly (monthly?) to check trends
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>X</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Switch to green electricity
<b>X</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Regularly service boiler or heating appliances
<b>X</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Choose appropriate sized rooms for activities
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>X</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Timetable meetings to minimise heating use
<b>X</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Heating system with timer and thermostatic controls
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>X</b>	Commission an energy/environmental consultation (particularly useful if considering a new heating system or refurbishment or if any boiler is older than 15 years)
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>X</b>	Fit draft excluders around windows and doors
<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Install appropriate levels of insulation where appropriate
<b>X</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Clean windows to maximise natural light!
<b>X</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Encourage building users to switch off unnecessary lights and not leave items on stand-by (e.g. photocopier)
<b>X</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Replace cracked or broken windowpanes
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	Install low-energy light bulbs where appropriate
<b>Have done</b>	<b>Con-sider</b>	<b>Not priority</b>	<b>Water</b>
<b>X</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Install a water meter and monitor water consumption regularly (monthly?)
<b>X</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Check water outlets and fix any drips and leaks
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>X</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Install water-saving devices e.g. dual flush toilets and low spray flow or auto turn-off taps

X  Collect rainfall from down pipes for use in garden

**Have done** **Con- sider** **Not priority**

### **Building maintenance**

X  Choose timber from sustainably managed forests, and reclaimed materials where appropriate

**Have done** **Are planning**

### **Access**

X  Facilities for hard of hearing and visually impaired  
X X Access for wheelchair and push chair users  
 X Toilets for disabled and baby change facilities for carers

## **Explanatory Notes**

1. These notes have been assembled following discussions with Mark Waller (Churchwarden) and Reg Bristow (Verger).

### **2. Note: Overall St Peters Church property includes:**

- The Church
- The Octagon (connected to the Church)
- The Vicarage in Hall Place Gardens (strictly speaking this is in the control of the Diocese)
- 1-7 St Peters Road (houses)
- 1-2 Church Yard (2 cottages)
- The Verger's house at Church Green
- The old Church Hall at 11 Hatfield Road
- Properties in Catherine Street (These are run by the Churchlands Trust which is a charity set up to benefit St Peters Church and two other local churches)
- The land surrounding the Church (e.g. the Church Yard) is not the owned by St Peters (I understand it is owned by the Diocese but the local council Parks and Recreation Department maintain it since the burial ground is classed as 'closed')

The Vicarage, the properties in Catherine Street and the land surrounding the church might not be considered as within our remit since the owners are either the Diocese or a Trust.

### **3. Energy – heating and light**

- Mark Waller and/or Reg Bristow/Christine Stubbs know if the energy bills are increasing. They do not check the energy consumption on a monthly basis (although the Church is billed on a monthly basis), and do not believe there is any need to as long as the bills are monitored.
- Powergen currently supplies both gas and electricity. There has been no conscious switch to green energy. Not enough is currently known about who supplies green energy and how to distinguish between those who say they do, and those that genuinely do. **Possible area for further action.**

- There is a system of 3 inter-related boilers for the church, with 2 switching in at any one time (the third is available if necessary). Dave Flint maintains these boilers. They are all serviced annually with an annual CORGI inspection as well. Numbers 1-7 St Peters Road have 5 tenants and there is 1 boiler for them all. Numbers 1-2 Church Yard are 2 cottages with a boiler each. All of these boilers are maintained and checked as above. They are gas-fired boilers. The heating system is getting old and is probably not as efficient as it could now be. **Consider in due course.**
- A larger room for some activities is ideally required. **Possible area for further action.**
- Meetings are not explicitly timetabled to minimise heating use at the moment. This might be explored and might or might not be practicable. **Possible area for further action.**
- The heating systems are fitted with programmers, and the one for the church is a multi-zone programmer but according to Reg Bristow the heating of the zones is not that will distinguished according to use. The Octagon's heat is controlled separately from the main church. There are no thermostatic controls in the main church and they would not be practicable to use in any case. The Octagon is controlled using a thermostat and the Vestry has a separate thermostat. It is understood that thermostats are used in the houses and cottages. There are six radiators in the library, each with thermostatic valves. According to Reg Bristow these radiators are often turned up for meetings but not turned down again afterwards. **Possible area for further action.**
- It is felt that there is no need to commission an energy consultant. There will be sufficient expertise available amongst members of the church congregation if need be.
- The question of draft excluders around windows and doors is a little complicated. Firstly, the doors are all double entry doors (2 layers of doors to inner areas in all cases) and this constrains heat loss and drafts. Secondly, there are only 4 opening windows in the main church and they are not opened very often and appear to be good fitting windows. The Octagon's windows are heavily rebated and locked and do not appear to suffer from drafts. It would probably be impracticable to fit further draft excluders around the external doors, and in some cases it is believed that the carpet already acts as a draft excluder below doors. The Vestry windows currently let cold air in as, according to Reg Bristow, they flap. **Possible area for further action.**
- The Octagon is insulated to a point, but could be better insulated. The potential for greater insulation in the Octagon/library/corridor area needs exploring. The library has a cavity wall but according to Reg Bristow the cavity is not insulated. There is no insulation in the roof of the main church and it is felt that this would be inappropriate and that Listed Building status would preclude it anyway. The houses and cottages are all believed to have been insulated using a grant to do so. However 18 months ago the architect recommended that the lofts of these properties all be cleaned out which would mean removing the insulation and then replacing it. The cost is prohibitive at around £15-£20k. **Possible area for further investigation and possible action.**
- Windows are cleaned by Reg Bristow.
- Lights and electrical appliances are turned off whenever possible, but Reg Bristow says that lights are often left on when they could have been turned off. The immersion heater in the kitchen is also often left on overnight. **Possible area for further action.**

- Windows which are cracked and broken have been replaced and are replaced
- The light fittings in the main church do not lend themselves to low energy light bulb fitting and so there is no opportunity here. The main church does, however, have a low power system. In the Octagon fluorescent tubes are used (12-18 Watt). There may be a need to change the lighting there in future which might present an opportunity. It is not known whether the houses and cottages make good use of low energy light bulbs.

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#### **Note**

There are various other energy-saving technologies which might be considered at some point in the future. Government is seeking to encourage the introduction of these through Building Regulations and in other ways. They include: fitting of solar panels to buildings; and energy-water systems (by which energy is generated from water flows in and from buildings). Energy-water fittings are currently only experimental and are a future or perhaps near-future possibility. Fitting of solar panels is affected by considerations such as Listed Building status.

#### **Carbon neutrality**

We might consider the possibility of making the church carbon neutral, or at least moving in that direction. The first step is reducing energy usage to a minimum. Other steps include working on a) our supply chain in this regard and b) asking our congregation to take steps, though many probably already are doing so. Carbon offsetting, using quality offsetters (note the Government's recent initiative in this area) is a further possibility). At the same time we should note the limitations of moving to a carbon neutral position.

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#### **4. Water**

- The church has a water meter, and is very aware of water consumption  
Note: not sure if the houses/cottages have water meters: if not, small households will probably gain from moving onto a water meter – **possible area for future action but there is a need to find out more.**
- Water outlets and taps are checked regularly for leaks and any leaks are corrected; but taps are sometimes left on and have to be turned off by Reg Bristow. **Possible area for further action.**
- There do not appear to be any low spray or auto turn-off taps in the church, and probably no dual flush toilets in either the church or the houses/cottages. Possible area for future action when extensions are constructed and/or existing fittings are replaced.
- Rainwater is not currently collected from downpipes and reused in the gardens. **Possible area for future action.**

A planning application was submitted on behalf of the church some months ago to extend the Octagon. The existing kitchen is too small and the existing toilets need replacing in due course, including with a toilet suited to the disabled. In such an extension project there is scope for introducing water saving fittings/technologies. Unfortunately the planning application was turned down and will have to be reformulated at some point.

Reg Bristow submitted another plan to the Church which involved using the large roof space above the Octagon/library and related areas for meeting rooms and having a staircase constructed.

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## Note

There are other water recycling technologies not directly referred to in the standard green audit kit, and they include:

Installation of greywater systems (greywater is all non-toilet wastewater produced in the church or in households from sinks, baths, showers etc. Greywater does not need extensive chemical or biological treatment before it can be used in the garden or for other uses.

Green roofs – vegetated building roofs used to capture, store, release and evaporate rainfall.

The Church has a very large roof area which is, in many ways, ideally suited as a catchment area for rainwater harvesting. Some consideration might be given to how this might be introduced at some point in the future, and how harvested rainwater might be used including in the local neighbourhood immediately adjacent to the Church.

Dry and/or composting toilets.

The Government is seeking to encourage the adoption of such technologies in future and they are likely to become more common; and the minutes of the Government's ministerially-led Water Savings Group indicates that they are likely to be introduced in future through Section G of the Building Codes.

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## 5. Building maintenance

- It is felt that we would consider using timber from sustainably managed forests when we next have a project which makes use of a significant amount of timber. We are sympathetic to this idea.

## 6. Access

- The church has a T-loop system for the hard-of-hearing. There is nothing specifically for the visually-impaired but it is felt that the church is a fairly tactile-friendly environment at the moment. Large print service books are available but have to be asked for.  
**Possible scope for further action through consulting those who are hard-of-hearing and visually-impaired about their needs and consideration of what further might be provided.**
- The doorways to the church have ramp-access designed for wheel-chair users. Wheelchair users cannot open the church doors themselves and at some point, investigation of equipment to overcome this problem is probably warranted. Also there are no toilets designed for the disabled (see above).  
**Possible scope for further action, including through consulting disabled users and their helpers in the first instance.**
- There are currently no baby-changing facilities in the toilets or elsewhere. There are also inadequate arrangements for sanitary towel disposal.  
**Possible scope for further action.**

**to help Churches put God's House in green order**

## 8. Church management

Churches are responsible for the good stewardship of money and a range of consumables. Dorking Society of Friends switched to a supplier of green electricity and have facilities to recycle a number of items. Use this section to assess your church's existing good practice and identify issues for consideration and action:

Have done	Consider	Not priority	Financial management & purchasing policy
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Consider and be satisfied by the environmental policy of your bank
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Have an ethical investment policy for any savings
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Use environmentally-friendly cleaning materials & paint
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Purchase recycled paper (to boost demand for recycled products)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Purchase fairly-traded products (e.g. tea and coffee)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Use local suppliers where possible (so promoting a sustainable local economy and reducing transportation)

Have done	Consider	Not priority	Catering
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Use crockery rather than disposable cups and plates
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Use farmers' markets and other local suppliers (to promote local economy and reduce food miles)

Have done	Consider	Not priority	Waste minimisation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Collection facilities for recycling items that church members, building users or local community can use (e.g. paper, spectacles, stamps, printer cartridges, shoes, foil)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Hold jumble sales to raise funds, recycle goods and promote the availability of goods at affordable prices

### Explanatory Notes

#### 1. Finances

- To our knowledge there has been no enquiry about whether or not the Royal Bank of Scotland has an environmental policy, and no assessment of whether we are happy with it, or wish to draw the bank's attention to the fact that we might not be. In practice we get free banking from RBS and so we do not press this point. **Possible scope for further consideration/action.**

- We should examine the Church's supply chain (not just the Bank, but also the Solicitor we use, and the suppliers of commodities used in the church) to ensure that they have acceptable environmental/ethical policies, and consider switching if they do not or do not assure us that they are going to make progress in this direction. **Possible scope for further consideration/action.**
- The Church's funds are invested in the Church of England Investment Fund and we assume that this is an ethical investment policy. **Scope for just checking this in the future.**
- Environmentally-friendly cleaning material are currently used to a point. Reg Bristow says that the cleaning materials are purchased in bulk from County Supplies and it might be difficult to purchase cheaper products elsewhere. A trade-off decision about cost and 'greenness' might be necessary to move to green products. **Possible scope for further consideration/action.**
- The Church probably does not currently use recycled paper but **this needs further checking before we can be definitive.** It is not known also whether The Key is printed on recycled paper or not.  
NB The Summer 2006 edition of The Key does not give any indication that it is printed on recycled paper. The Advent and Christmas 2006 publicity sheet also carries no information to this effect.

**Further checking is necessary but there may be further scope for a) purchasing and using recycled paper and b) advertising the fact on printed document that the paper used is recycled paper.**

- Fair-trade coffee (and other products) are used in the kitchen.
- It is believed that local suppliers are used where possible e.g. flowers are locally grown. **There may be scope for further consideration/action.**

## 2. Catering

- Crockery is used in the kitchen to serve tea and coffee. However, sometimes disposable cups are used to serve drinks and these are considered to be environmentally unfriendly. It is not necessary to wash disposable cups after use and so energy and water use is negligible whereas it is not when crockery needs washing. **Possible scope for further consideration.**
- It is believed that farmer's markets and other local supplies are used (but see above).

## 3. Waste minimisation

- The Verger disposes of waste using waste recycling principles, but the waste is currently only sorted into 2 categories a) paper b) the rest. The Church does not currently make available waste recycling facilities that local people or church members can use. In the past certain Jumble Sales tended to be used for people to bring their unwanted (waste) goods, and all that happened was that the Church ended up having to spend a lot of time carting these away to the local tip. **Possible scope for further action but with strong cautionary rider attached with regard to providing facilities for the community.**
- Explore using Emmaus and Freecycle for future recycling. Freecycle has about 1000 participants already in St Albans. **Possible scope for further consideration/action.**
- Jumble sales have been organised to raise funds and to recycle goods and to promote availability of goods at affordable prices.

**Module 8, 'Greening the purse strings' includes ideas for good stewardship of financial, catering and purchasing matters**

## 9. Church Land

Many churches are responsible for land varying in size from a tiny patch to a large acreage. Trinity URC, Wigan has a bird feeding station and their children made some bird nest boxes. Gildersome Baptist Church undertook a major churchyard project involving partnerships with a variety of agencies and schools and turned a hazardous wilderness into a wildlife haven and educational resource. Use this section to assess the community/visual/ environmental/ecological/ value of your church's plot and the potential to develop it:

### Present Potential to develop

- |                                     |                                     |                                                                                                                                                       |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Native plant species and plants that attract wildlife (e.g. nest or roosting sites, trees, shrubs, lichens, fungi, hedges, wildflowers)               |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Other features to benefit wildlife (e.g. bird feeding station, bird nest boxes, bat boxes, piles of leaves or rotting logs for insects and hedgehogs) |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Visually attractive planting/features                                                                                                                 |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | Area for prayer/contemplation/outdoor worship                                                                                                         |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | Area for recreation                                                                                                                                   |

### Explanatory Notes

**It is understood that the Church Yard is not the property of the Church and this presumably limits to some extent what can be achieved.**

- The Church Yard is not really used in any planned way at the moment for the planting of native plant species and plants which attract wildlife.
- No features specifically designed to attract wildlife are utilised.
- There is a proposal to make a park out of the Church Yard and a lottery grant proposal, led by the local council has been submitted. This could possibly increase a) visually attractive planting, of native plant species b) add features which might attract wildlife and c) improve the recreational value of the area.
- The gardens of remembrance are area suitable for, and used for, outdoor prayer and contemplation.

There may be some scope for seeking to influence the owners of the Church Yard to more explicitly adopt environmentally friendly policies and practices in the Church Yard. **Possible scope for further action.**

<p><b>Module 9, 'Planting and conserving Eden' includes ideas, inspiration and sources of resources for churches to:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- <b>assess the ecological value of their land and develop a management plan</b></li><li>- <b>improve the community benefit or wildlife value of their plot</b></li></ul>
----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

## 10. Personal lifestyle

More people attend church week by week than participate with any other voluntary body. All Saint's Church, Wretton, published a monthly 'green your life' article in their parish magazine. Use this section to assess what your church is currently doing to encourage individuals to green their lifestyle and the potential to develop this mission

Have done	Con-sider	Not priority	Greening personal lifestyle
<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	Publish green tips in any church/parish magazine
<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	Promoting awareness through posters or information from environmental organisations (e.g. home energy audit)
<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	Encourage recycling by providing collection points or informing people of civic facilities

**Module 10, 'Green choices' includes information and tips to green lifestyles.**

## 11. Community outreach

Churches can work with and through their local community to improve the quality of their neighbourhood and build links. St Osmund's, Derby organise an annual community litter pick. Use this section to assess the links that your Church already has in the local community and the potential for further development.

Have done	Con- sider	Not priority	Community outreach/mission
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>x</b>	Establish links with community organisations with a view to sharing your environmental ministry (e.g. schools, youth groups, local environmental bodies)
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>x</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Advise building users of your environmental concerns and request that they utilise any environmental facilities
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>x</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Participate in local environmental initiatives or policy formation – your local Council may advise
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>x</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Draw on links that members have with environmental bodies e.g. Friends of the Earth, Wildlife Trust, RSPB
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>x</b>	Support or initiate community schemes with a positive environmental element (e.g Clean-up, LETS, Credit Union)

### Ideas for possible future action:

Establish links with community organisations with a view to sharing your environmental ministry (e.g. schools, youth groups, local environmental bodies)

**Worth considering once we have a coherent vision and strategy to share. For now, not a priority.**

Advise building users of your environmental concerns and request that they utilise any environmental facilities

**Definitely worth doing.**

**Would need a one page**

Participate in local environmental initiatives or policy formation – your local Council may advise

**Worth considering.**

Draw on links that members have with environmental bodies e.g. Friends of the Earth, Wildlife Trust, RSPB

**Definitely worth doing, perhaps as part of our initial/next communication to church members.**

Support or initiate community schemes with a positive environmental element (e.g Clean-up, LETS, Credit Union)

**Worth considering once we have a coherent vision and strategy to share. For now, not a priority.**

**Module 11, 'Community Matters' includes stories, ideas and further contacts for undertaking work with and through local communities.**

## 12. Overseas Concerns

Living simply that others may simply live is a facet of Christian life. Clarendon Park Baptist/Methodist LEP established a thriving Traidcraft stall in their church and sell the products at other local outlets. What does or could your church do to benefit the environment and people across the world?

Have done	Con-sider	Not priority	Community outreach/mission
X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Support the work of Christian development agencies (e.g. Christian Aid, Cafod, Trocaire, SCIAF or Tearfund)
<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	Initiate or participate in activities in One World Week
X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Promote fair trade
<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	Explore environmental issues through any linked or twinned overseas community or church
X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Support the work of international conservation/ environment agencies (e.g. A Rocha, WWF, Friends of the Earth)

### Explanatory Notes:

#### 1. Promoting intercultural knowledge and understanding/valuing different traditions

St Peters is currently engaged in, and has recently taken part in a number of activities reaching different members of the congregation that promote learning about different cultures and traditions. This gives a foundation for what could be further development of activities to benefit the environment and people across the world.

St Peters sometimes includes acts of worship from other traditions in services: e.g. African dance at the 2005 crib service.

Tai Chi in Lectio Divino and drumming in 2006 crib service.

Book club choice of books offers some non Eurocentric perspectives.

Nearer home: choir trips to France (2004 and 2005)

Helen Hutchinson represents St Peter's on the Diocesan Europe group. She has put together a summary report in response to the questions I asked her from the Environmental Check-Up (see below).

There was a talk at the Women's Fellowship in this last year 2006-7 from a representative of Mission Aviation Fellowship

#### 2. Support of overseas development and environmental issues

Christian development agencies

St Peter's contributes to the team of collectors from St Albans churches each year for Christian Aid, organised at the St Peter's side by Katja. Giving this year (2006) across St Albans as a whole was down on last year.

Lent appeal 2006 was for the communities affected by the Pakistan earthquake. Giving by members of the congregation at this time was relatively low.

There is other charitable giving as determined each year by the Mission Committee. The year 2007-8 list of proposed beneficiaries of charitable giving presently includes Water Aid and A Rocha.

Harvest appeal

This was an envelope collection for the Bishop's appeal for Uganda.

Operation Christmas Child – boxes for Romania got a good response from the congregation and the Advent Project Toybox appeal raised £300.

Mothers' Union at St Peter's:

A family fundraising African evening in November 2006 – African food with drumming and quiz on an African theme. The event in aid of the MU Literacy and Development Programme in Burundi, Malawi and Sudan raised over £300 as well as promoting some more knowledge about Africa for all ages.

Mother's Union has international membership and provides a potential link with projects worldwide where MU members, workers and leaders join in partnership with communities to address needs. The Family Life Programme in Uganda includes a tree planting project to address soil erosion and provide families with shade. **This might be something that St Peter's might choose to get further involved with as one of our Overseas Concerns Environmental activities. MU also supports new agricultural projects to help families and communities and makes a rapid response to emergency relief appeals.**

Activities in One World Week

This is the Churches Together promoted week in support of One World. Events include a peace vigil, Fairtrade stall, services and talks across St Albans and district. All activities were advertised at St Peter's and on the CTSA website. There was nothing specifically St Peter's-based and possibly not much involvement from St Peter's congregation with One World Week activities taking place elsewhere locally. **This could be an area for greater priority next year – either through supporting other churches' activities or advertising one of our own.**

### **3. Fair Trade**

Traidcraft stalls are held periodically. Traidcraft and other Fairtrade goods are sold or offered at Saturday and Sunday coffee mornings. St Peter's is a Fairtrade Church (put forward for certification by Katja)

### **4. Overseas Environmental Issues, Links with overseas communities or churches**

St Peter's presently has no linked or twinned church. Helen Hutchinson initiated contact with Rev Proud in Ethiopia in 2005. The political situation has since meant that contact has been lost although Rev Proud and his community remain in prayers.

The idea of links could again be an area for future development *if* there is sufficient interest for the congregation to hold the commitment and if there are a range of possibilities for promoting the connections which are seen as real and mutually beneficial.

The Diocesan Map mentioned in Helen Hutchinson's report indicates where local churches have European links and twinning arrangements. Some churches also have partnerships with districts and/or churches within Europe and jointly, with groups from the locality concerned engage on development projects (such as educational or community projects in areas of need).

There are other churches within the Churches Together in St Albans network that are presently linked to partnership projects with communities overseas and with whom St Peter's might make a connection.

**5, Supporting the work of international conservation/environment agencies**

As noted above, this year Water Aid and A Rocha are put forward as beneficiaries of outward giving. **It could be that a longer term commitment is made to these or similar charities and that in future years St Peter's chooses to keep an overseas environmental agency on the list of beneficiaries.**

**Module 12, 'Global neighbours' includes ideas and contacts to help church think and act locally to promote environmental care globally**

## Appendix A

### About Eco-Congregation

Eco-Congregation is an ecumenical environmental project for churches in Britain and Ireland. It provides free resources, support and an Award scheme to help churches to consider environmental issues in the context of their Christian life and mission and to take positive action. Eco-Congregation was originally developed by the environmental charity ENCAMS on behalf of Churches Together in Britain and Ireland (CTBI). It is now overseen by CTBI and delivered by a partnership of organisations.

In England, Eco-Congregation is managed and delivered by The Arthur Rank Centre (ARC) and supported by a grant from the Methodist Relief and Development Fund. ARC is a collaborative unit supported by the national churches, the Royal Agricultural Society of England and the Rank Foundation and includes within its remit service to the rural community and its churches, and work on agricultural and environmental issues. Contact:

Tel: 02476 853061 Email: [ecocongregation@rase.org.uk](mailto:ecocongregation@rase.org.uk) Web: [www.ecocongregation.org](http://www.ecocongregation.org)

In Scotland, Eco-Congregation is managed and delivered through a partnership between Keep Scotland Beautiful (an Associated company of ENCAMS) and the Society, Religion and Technology Project (SRT) of the Church of Scotland. It is endorsed by Action of Churches Together in Scotland (ACTS) and is supported financially by the Scottish Executive's Sustainable Action Fund. Contact

Tel: +44 (0)131 556 2953 Email: [ecocongregation@srtp.org.uk](mailto:ecocongregation@srtp.org.uk) Web: [www.ecocongregation.org/scotland](http://www.ecocongregation.org/scotland)

Churches in Wales are supported by ARC and in Ireland by Eco-Congregation Scotland.

## Appendix B

### Churches environmental check-up: Action Plan

Use this template (or your own expanded version) to summarise your church's existing good environmental practise and identify future initiatives.

	<u>Activities already undertaken</u>	<u>Future priorities/initiatives</u>
Worship		
Theology		
Children's work		
Youth work		
Adult education		
Premises		
Finance		
Church land		
Personal lifestyle		
Local community		
Global concerns		

## Appendix C

To order Eco-Congregation resource modules free of charge complete this form indicating:

1. your contact and church details
2. your choice of modules (overleaf)
3. that you have worked through the churches environmental check-up or a comparable audit
4. that a church decision-making body affirms that environmental activities form part of your church's life and mission.

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

**Full Name of Church** .....

**Denomination of Church** .....

**Title and Name of Contact Person**.....  
(Green Apostle/Environmental Co-ordinator)

**Address of Contact Person**.....

.....

**County** ..... **Postcode** .....

**Tel:** ..... **Fax:**.....

**Email address:**.....

**My contact details may be passed to a third party\***    **yes\***     **no**

\* e.g. a church/denominational contact, local authority environmental officer but never for commercial purposes

**Size of Church** (members/regular worshippers) Under 50  51-200  200+

**Location:** Rural  Suburban  Town/City Centre  Inner City

**Name of your Local Authority:** .....

**Name of Church decision-making body which approved this order:**

.....

**Date of Meeting:** .....

**Position of Church Officer chairing the meeting:** .....

---

I affirm that environmental issues/caring for God's creation form part of our church's life and mission and that we have worked through the churches environmental check-up in module 1 or a comparable environmental audit

**Name of Church Officer** .....

**Signature of Church Officer .....**

Please tick the modules that your church would like to receive:

### **Grounding in Faith**

#### **Module 2 Celebrating creation!**

Ideas and resources for worship

#### **Module 3 Creation and Christianity**

Some green theological perspectives

### **Growing in Faith**

#### **Module 4 Acorn to oaks**

Ideas and activities for children's work

#### **Module 5 Tread gently – go green**

Ideas and activities for youth groups

#### **Module 6 Exploring God's green word**

An address and two sets of Bible Studies for house groups

### **Managing in Faith**

#### **Module 7 Greening the cornerstone**

Guidelines on caring for Church premises

#### **Module 8 Greening the purse strings**

Management of financial, catering and purchasing matters

#### **Module 9 Planting and conserving Eden**

Practical ideas and advice to care for Church grounds and land

### **Living in Faith**

#### **Module 10 Green choices**

Information and suggestions to green personal lifestyles

#### **Module 11 Community matters**

Ideas to help Churches work with, through and for their local community

#### **Module 12 Global neighbours**

Sources and resources to help Churches think globally and act locally.

### **Please note:**

- to save resources only one copy of each module is available per Church
- modules are also downloadable from: [www.ecocongregation.org](http://www.ecocongregation.org)
- churches may freely photocopy modules (the text version on the web copies well)
- it is recommended that you only order as many modules as you can use
- other modules may be requested later without completing a second form

**Return this form:**

**For England and Wales:**

**Post:** Eco-Congregation Resources, The Arthur Rank Centre, National Agricultural Centre,  
Stoneleigh, Warwickshire CV8 2LZ

**Email:** [ecocongregation@rase.org.uk](mailto:ecocongregation@rase.org.uk)

**For Scotland, Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland:**

**Post:** Eco-Congregation Resources, SRT, John Knox House, 45 High Street,  
Edinburgh, EH1 1SR

**Email:** [ecocongregation@srtp.org.uk](mailto:ecocongregation@srtp.org.uk)