

# St Peters Green Team

## Proposals for advancing the green agenda

At the PCC on 27<sup>th</sup> September 2007, members of the Green Team were invited to present some proposals at the 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2007 meeting for taking the green agenda further forward. The proposals below are put forward in this context, and also within the context of the Environmental Check-Up which was completed earlier in the year.

Good progress has already been made in the following areas:

- agreeing a statement of environmental commitment for St Peters (agreed at the PCC on 27<sup>th</sup> November 2007);
- organising and holding a launch event for the environmental initiative (held on 10 June 2007);
- beginning to inform the congregation about the St Peters environmental check-up, the green agenda, and the statement of environmental commitment;
- making donations to environmental charities; and
- other actions (e.g. environmentally oriented inter-cessory prayers).

## Specific proposals

### 1. Paper

- 1.1 The church, its committees and members should use either recycled or paper produced by sound environmental techniques (i.e. ones which minimise adverse environmental impacts) for all of its publicity, information sheets, pew sheets, The Key, notices, paper communications, minutes, agendas etc.

We should aim to be in this position by 1 June 2008, or earlier if possible.

- 1.2 To help facilitate this Tom Willson is already working with Christine Stubbs to introduce recycled paper into the paper supplies used in the church.
- 1.3 Dennis and Sue Parker have ascertained from Christian and Outreach Publishing Ltd that they are using paper produced by environmentally sound techniques for The Key.
- 1.4 We suggest that all or most church publications (i.e. pew sheets, notices, information sheets etc.) should carry a printed footnote specifying that the paper used is recycled paper or paper produced using environmentally friendly techniques, in order a) to demonstrate that St Peters takes environmental issues seriously and b) to help maintain awareness of environmental issues (see also 3.1).

- 1.5 We also suggest that all or most church publications should carry a short statement to the effect that the publication should be recycled after use (see also 3.1).

## **2. Waste recycling**

- 2.1 St Peters should fully support and take advantage of the new St Albans City and District waste recycling system being introduced by the council during 2008, and should seek to recycle a high percentage of the waste it produces.

We should aim to be fully using the new system by 31 December 2008, or earlier if possible.

- 2.2 To help facilitate this sufficient recycling bins will be required by the Verger, and members of the Green Team are able to help identify and secure these.

Suitable locations need to be identified for recycling bins (both visible or publicised 'intermediate' and 'final' locations in the Church and Octagon (see also 3.1).

- 2.3 We suggest that, as part of these arrangements, a composting facility be established for green waste and its re-use in the grounds surrounding the church or use is made of a green waste bin to be emptied by the council.
- 2.4 We believe that notices giving information about waste recycling facilities, and where to find them, will be required at strategic locations (see also 3.1).

## **3. Notices and information**

- 3.1 Sufficient notices and information should be made available in the church and in its publications, and also by notices placed at strategic points in the church and Octagon, to ensure that outside groups and all using the church are aware of waste recycling facilities and locations.

We believe that, once they are established, green waste and energy use procedures will need to be explained in person to leaders of outside groups using the church facilities.

- 3.2 At the same time, we should take advantage of the opportunity to make all aware of a) the need to turn off lights after facilities have been used, and b) the need to turn down radiators after meetings when they have been turned up for a meeting.
- 3.3 The system for making large print service books/pew sheets available to members of the congregation should be taken a step further forward

by ensuring that all Sidesmen know where to find these (currently not all Sidesmen have this information).

#### **4. Detergents and cleaning materials**

- 4.1 Biodegradable washing-up liquid should be used in the kitchen. To facilitate this Sally Martin will ensure that initially some biodegradable detergent is available, and will look into making those who use the kitchen of aware of the need to use it.
- 4.2 We would like the Verger to be asked to check that environmentally friendly cleaning products are used within the church.

#### **5. Electricity and gas supplies**

- 5.1 The church should switch to a green energy source or source supplier, and subsequently publicise that it has done so to the congregation through The Key.

This should be achieved by 1 June 2008, or earlier if possible.

- 5.2 The Green Team will pursue further the steps which need to be taken, other than in 3.2. and 5.1 above, to converge on carbon neutrality in the future. This will involve calculating our carbon footprint.

#### **6. Giving to environmental charities**

- 6.1 The Mission Committee should ensure that at least one environmental charity is included in the annual round of donations to charities (thus continuing current practice).

#### **7. Overseas projects**

- 7.1 Further consideration should be given to ways of supporting overseas development and related environmental issues (in addition to the current ways in which we do this e.g. using and promoting fair trade products, supporting Wateraid, Christian Aid, ARocha).

Ideas are invited.

#### **8. Engaging the congregation**

- 8.1 We are aware that many members of the congregation are already engaged in actions to protect the environment, but we believe it still remains important to further engage the congregation (especially children and young people) in the green agenda at St Peters.
- 8.2 To help facilitate this The Key will feature environmental issues and initiatives on a fairly regular basis.

- 8.3 We believe that the possibility of including green ideas or tips (very briefly) in pew sheets should be explored further.
- 8.4 Members of the Green Team would also like to explore the possibility of organising a competition during 2008, with a prize, for the best environmental idea or tip.
- 8.5 We suggest that the church should include ‘an environmental Sunday’ in its annual schedule of activities.

**9. Continuing with all of the ‘green actions’ that the church and congregation currently take**

- 9.1 Notwithstanding the proposals itemised above, the church, its committees and members should continue with the actions that are already taken in support of the agreed St Peter’s Statement of Environmental Commitment.

**10. Green Team to continue its activities and to monitor and report on progress**

- 10.1 The Green Team will continue to meet regularly to help advance the Agenda, and to monitor progress.
- 10.2 The Green Team should be invited to provide a report on progress for the annual open PCC meeting and for the Year book.

**Note:** A copy of the completed Environmental Audit (i.e. Check-Up) (2007) from St Peter’s can be provided, preferably electronically, by Mark Robins or Dennis Parker.