

Minutes of Wesley Memorial Eco Church Team held on 22nd March 2023 via Zoom

Present: Catherine Black, David and Anne Bull, Carolyn Clements, Janet Forsaith (notes), Jo Godfrey (chair), Mary Lines, Mel McCulloch, Derek and Lindsay Rawson, Paul Spray and Joanna Tulloch.

Apologies: Freda Cammack, Heather Davies, Anna Herriman and Kath Ridley.

Jo opened the meeting in prayer.

1. **Matters Arising:** none.

2. **Promoting Fair Trade:** Paul reported that there are 2 consequences of the closure of the Fair Trade Shop.

- Accessing Fair Trade products: this is all in hand. Jo has spoken to the Headington Fair Trade shop and has ordered boxes of tea and coffee. It is a little more expensive and the packs are smaller. Thanks to Freda for collecting the order. Mary said that Aldi has stopped using Fairtrade products and customers should express their disappointment in this. He said that Greggs use all fairtrade products.
- Paul reported that Transform Trade runs campaigns. He will get an update from them and provide a link to the website. It is important to keep Fairtrade at the forefront for everyone at Wesley Mem; congregation, premise users and visitors.

3. **Building:**

- Jo reported that Alan Spray had completed a carbon footprint audit, but there was doubt over the accuracy of the meter readings as they were not up to date. It was agreed that data collection needs to be gathered carefully and that 6 months more data is needed. There is evidence of high electricity usage in the flat and they are now back to using gas.

Peter Bemrose, an energy consultant and Methodist Local Preacher, visited Wesley Mem for a day and the report is expected in the next month. Key points are that radiator valves should be replaced to enable heat output to be controlled remotely. Installation of an air pump is not possible, but solar panels are and this will be investigated (an architect will need to be consulted). Derek said that insulation for the boiler room pipework is essential – Jo said this is already underway. Excessive heat in the blue kitchen should also be investigated. It was agreed that the report should be taken to the F & P Committee in the first instance and then seek Church Council agreement.

- Catherine Black offered £25 voucher for Ecotricity, a renewable energy company recommended by Which and Ethical Consumer: https://ecotricity.co.uk/mrafa/code=RAF-ZN36T?utm_source=eco_app&utm_medium=raf&utm_campaign=credit_raf

4. **Eco Church Service on 16th April 2023 (All Age with Rockfish):** Jo had circulated the order of service put together by David, Jo and Mel – David and Mel will lead and Joanna is the steward. It was very well received with thanks. The theme is rooted and grounded in love with a tree theme – a tree is being created and will be kept for the District Synod on 22nd April. Anyone wishing to participate should contact Jo.

5. **Eco Church Garden:** Thanks to everyone who has been creating the 2 garden areas. David and Anne have a hazel tree which will be fine in a pot and suitable for a bird feeder. They have also

been investigating sourcing South African plants to reflect Wesley Mem's diversity. The current bird feeder is attracting a range of birds and data from the solitary bee box is part of the Oxford Plan Bee project. Broad beans will be grown in a planter. Mary said that another bench will be sourced once they come back into stock. She also said that the back garden area has been well received by the OWNS guests.

6. Quarry Churchyard: Jo reported that Freda, Heather, Mel and David and Anne have been recording the plants at the churchyard for 2 years now, Caring for God's Acre is an organisation which will send out an expert to evaluate the churchyard, give advice and make a 3 year plan. The Eco Circuit Team brought this to the recent Circuit Meeting which agreed to finance this. Jo will schedule a day visit.

7. District Synod (22nd April 2023): Paul reported that Ruth Valerio will be speaking at 11.30 am and all are welcome to attend and stay on for lunch. People are also welcome to attend the whole day of Synod as observers. There will be eco displays from circuit churches. The aforementioned tree will be decorated with hearts on Saturday 15th April. Mary offered blue material. Paul is going to the Christian Climate Action Protest on 21st April along with others from the Circuit. If you would like more information, contact him. More details below.

<https://christianclimateaction.org/2022/10/22/the-big-one/> in person and/or online: <https://extinctionrebellion.uk/act-now/campaigns/digital-rebellion/> £5 return coach tickets available from Oxford: <https://forms.gle/iSmBLGpfKyCHpSAn8>

8. Any Other Business:

Mary asked about progress in using recycled paper at Wesley Mem. Jo is working on this and reported that cleaning products are now mostly eco-friendly.

It was agreed that the next meeting in the summer should be a lunch after Sunday worship.

The meeting closed with the saying of the Grace.

Janet Forsaith