

RESOURCES

The Diocesan Environment Adviser, The Revd Mark Morgan St Peter's House, Stoke Park Drive, Ipswich IP2 9TH gan60@btinternet.com 01473 601438

A network of voluntary Deanery Environmental Officers is being developed to support and encourage churches. They will help churches within the Deanery to become more green, assist the Deanery in using environmental liturgical resources and encourage liaison with the DEC regarding church buildings. They will be supported by the Diocesan Environment Adviser.

We recommend the use of the Eco-congregation church check-up The material can all be downloaded for free from www.ecocongregation.org Please consider making a donation to the charity which provides this resource. On the same web site there is a similar church centre check-up for offices and centres.

There is also guidance from the Church of England on www.shrinkingthefootprint.cofe.anglican.org Those churches which participated in the Shrinking the Footprint survey a couple of years ago will have a head start and be able to identify what has changed since then. By Autumn 2009 it will be possible to use this web site to contribute to the Anglican Climate Adaptation Fund. This seeks to enable Anglican church communities around the world most affected by climate change to adapt to changes in the environment.

Other useful web sites:

CRed: www.cred-uk.org

Christian Ecology Link: www.christian-ecology.org.uk

Conservation Foundation: www.conservationfoundation.co.uk

A Rocha UK: www.arocha.org.uk

Time for God's Creation: www.ctbi.org.uk/creationtime

Living Simply: www.ecologicalfootprint.com

Fairtrade: www.fairtrade.org.uk

Recycling: www.recyclenow.com www.freecycle.org

Energy Saving Trust: www.energysavingtrust.org.uk

Energy Performance Certificates: www.direct.gov.uk/epc

Renewable energy supplier: www.goodenergy.co.uk

Creating the Greenest County: www.greensuffolk.org

Suffolk Strategic Partnership: www.transformingsuffolk.co.uk

Churchyards: www.suffolkwildlifetrust.org

Books:

'Rich Christians in an Age of Hunger' Ron Sider Thomas Nelson

Freedom of Simplicity' Richard Foster HarperOne

Sharing God's Planet Claire Foster Report for C of E Mission and Public Affairs CHP 2005 ISBN 071514068X.

How many light bulbs does it take to change a Christian? Don't stop at the lights

Claire Foster and David Shreeve Church House Publishing

'Renewing the Face of the Earth: A Theological and Pastoral Response to Climate Change' David Atkinson Canterbury Press 2008

ACTION: IDEAS FOR CONSIDERATION

(Many of these emerged from the Diocesan Synod discussion in March 2008)

Processes:

- Carry out an audit of activities to consider how and where the carbon footprint can be reduced
- Examine all future proposed action for its potential impact on the environment
- Regularly monitor progress
- Explore ways to incorporate care for God's planet as an integral part of worship, prayer, study and spiritual life together
- Set an example of simple living
- Speak out about the importance of action

This may lead to action in the following areas of church life, administration and individual lifestyles:

Church services & meeting management

- consider if the number of meetings requiring travel can be reduced
- share cars, drive more slowly, encourage walking & cycling & use public transport where possible
- reduce the use of paper
- recycle and avoid the use of bottled water or throw away cups
- use local produce & fairtrade coffee & tea
- identify the environmental implications of all proposed policy decisions

Employment

- build the acceptance of the Diocesan environmental policy into all job descriptions in the Diocese
- consider funding the Diocesan Environmental Officer

Offices, clergy houses & church members' houses

- turn down thermostats & turn off appliances on stand-by
- use renewable electricity suppliers
- improve insulation (this may be free for those over 60)
- install double glazing
- consider if an energy audit could be part of each quinquennial survey
- consider providing an Energy Performance Certificate (or equivalent) for clergy houses (as now required for all rented property)
- consider moving to less energy demanding properties

Church buildings & churchyards

- use renewable electricity suppliers
- use energy saving light bulbs wherever possible
- turn down thermostats & turn off appliances on stand-by
- consider making changes to church buildings which will improve energy efficiency
- explore heating systems using renewable fuel
- install solar hot water panels and/or photovoltaic panels to generate electricity
- consider the environmental impact of all proposals and assist parishes with expert advice (Diocesan Advisory Committee)
- explore potential for "living churchyards", develop wormeries & compost heaps & create wildlife havens

Investment & banking policy

- consider if money invested can do more to benefit the environment
- use a cooperative bank

Worship, prayer and spiritual development

- celebrate God's creation in worship
- incorporate care for the environment in prayer
- consider joining in the "Time for God's Creation" each September.

Adult education & training (CME, DMC & lay education)

- bring Christian perspectives on environmental concerns into all aspects of teaching
- consider if travel to training can be reduced
- reduce the use of paper
- ask environmental specialists to teach and communicate
- consider developing a travelling environmental exhibition

Schools, colleges, children & young people

- work with Suffolk County Council Eco-Schools programme
- encourage schools to make environmental presentations to church & community
- consider how car travel to schools can be reduced
- encourage young people to take action on litter, creating wildlife havens, etc.
- bring Christian perspectives on environmental concerns into all aspects of teaching

Community affairs

- work through farming, business, tourism, hospitals, prisons and other chaplaincy roles to promote environmental awareness
- join in (or initiate) local environmental campaigns working with parish councils where appropriate
- provide specialist recycling facilities in porch/churchyard
- encourage take-up of insulation grants in the local community (free for elderly and those on benefits)
- advertise green actions taken by the church

Publicity & communications

- publicise views and action
- campaign for local, national & international change
- present environmental concerns as a world justice issue
- use illustrations from our link Diocese in Kagera, Tanzania