

# Hector's Random Reflections

## from a Meet-the-Team Brainstorming Lunch

with Revd Julie and Ernest Nelson, 8 August 2019

We had apologies for absence from Sue Higson, Brian Morgan, Dominic and Mirian Roser, Cecily Kingler and Maxine Wildhaber, so the meeting was attended by Martin Browne, Hector Davie, Art and Esther Hutchison/Funkhouser, and Julie and Ernest Nelson. There was no formal agenda, but a number of points came up in conversation – my note-taking was not marvellous, so others may think of more.

We began with the garden (being our only non-bronze category 😊)

- various mixes of wildflower seeds are available – expensively in bulk, cheaply from Landi
- people should see helping in the garden as fun (e.g Martin's fir cone gathering challenge) or useful (we could grow herbs for when we held barbecues)
- tubs or planters compensated for poor soil **but** needed maintenance (and not all of us would be able to help) (*not even on a Sunday??*)
- take a look at <http://www.incredible-edible-todmorden.co.uk>
- yellow rattle (*Rhinanthus minor*, kleiner Klappertopf, petit cocriste) is good to sow among grass
- <http://www.caringforgodsacre.org.uk> is a good site for ideas for managing churchyards
- if there are any naturalists in the congregation, they might be persuaded to help carry out a survey. Or maybe someone in the congregation knows a naturalist.
- Or contact a local environmental organization (e.g. Pro Natura)

More general:

- *Laudato Si'* is well worth reading. (Basis for magazine article? For study course?)
- we should take note of what groups like Extinction Rebellion (<http://rebellion.earth/>) are doing
- church leaders (who?) should encourage members to be evangelists for ecology
- we need not only to practice green living, but to get the clubs we are members of, the employers we work for, the hotels we stay at, to practice green living too
- care for creation is central to faith . But some Christians (mistakenly) feel it is a side issue that is not so important as saving souls and preparing them for some (imminent?) rapture...

Isolated ideas:

- go through our cleaning materials and ensure they are environmentally friendly
- put a recipe for *savon noir* (soft soap) in the magazine
- avoid plastic waste – e-g- by shopping at [www.palette-bern.ch](http://www.palette-bern.ch) (Münstergasse 18)
- get ideas from <http://www.ethicalconsumer.org>
- hold a vegetarian lunch and use it to discuss peoples ideas about food – everyone one has their own viewpoint
- at Keswick they invited a bee-keeper to keep a hive in the churchyard – would this work

here? (Ask Christina Kast?)

- put up a map of the area and invite people to identify where they live – then see if there are possibilities for lift-sharing
- possible incorporation of ecology into New Expressions of worship (e.g. bread-making – sort of “adult messy church”)
- hold a “Give and Take Day” (a sort of organized “Gratis zum Mitnehmen”)
- hold a film show and discussion (see e.g. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The\\_Age\\_of\\_Stupid](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Age_of_Stupid))
- “Forest Church” (see, e.g. <http://www.churchtimes.co.uk/articles/2013/4-october/features/features/if-you-kneel-down-in-the-woods-today>)
- “Plastic-less Lent” (<http://www.facebook.com/groups/148636355799566/about/> - or Google for it)
- <https://ecochurchsouthwest.org.uk/> (an initiative of the Diocese of Exeter and others – but note that the Church of England can sometimes be long on words and short on performance!!)