

Notes from a Meeting of St Ursula's Eco-Church Team

on 25 July 2019 at 1215 in the Church Hall

Present: *Hector Davie, Art Funkhouser, Esther Hutchison-Funkhouser, Sue Higson, Cecily Klingler, Revd Helen Marshall, Rosalind Richards, Maxine Wildhaber*. Brian Morgan and Dominic and Miriam Roser apologized for their unavoidable absence.

Aims of Meeting

- reviewing progress made since our previous meeting and surveying current projects
- continuing to look in detail at the Eco-Church survey, particularly in the areas of “Land” and “Community and Global Engagement”
- considering any further ideas

Current situation

The group mail address had been activated.

“Tips for the Week” were appearing. Hector would welcome **more tips**. These should be one-liners (to fit at the foot of the notice sheet), but could be expanded with more detail for the website (where <http://www.stursula.ch/Eco/TipOfTheWeek.html> fulfilled the function of a weblog).

It was suggested that these tips could be gathered in a suggestion box. Discussion led to the idea of a **suggestion book** (so that people could see what tips had already been proposed). This would be available on Sunday in conjunction with the planned welcome table. Once available, it would be drawn to people's attention in the **notices**.

It would be good to dedicate part of a **notice board** to ecological matters – tips, facts, and reports on what we are doing.

Preparations were under way for **Creation Sunday on 1 September**. We agreed to display a larger and more prominent **poster** in addition to the available flyers. Esther noted we should make clear that the bring-and-share buffet after the Münster service called for finger food, nothing more complicated.

Elizabeth Bussmann would be talking after the service on **8 September**. We would provide a simple **Eco-Lunch** afterwards of appropriately produced soup, salad and bread. Hector and Sue undertook to provide food. There would not be an eco-quiz this time, but the idea should be kept in mind for next year.

Junior Church was working on a project for **Creationtide**, and might make a presentation at our Harvest Festival.

During Creation tide, and at all times, the environment should be included as a set element of the **intercessions**. Esther would remind people on the intercession rota about this.

The next **magazine** would be an eco-issue, and it was hoped that all contributions would have an environmental slant (not just a couple of specific articles).

The October-November charity focus should focus on **A Rocha**, even if the Charity Committee had not formally added it to the charity giving list.

The Harvest Festival collection should go to **Tear Fund** as usual, as the Kigezi water scheme was an environmental project.

It was felt we could contribute to **Swiss clean-up day** on 13/14 September, even without formally registering. Cecily undertook to look into this in more detail.

Recyclables in the Hall

We noted that the boxes for glass and PET containers and for paper which used to be halfway up the stairs were no longer actively used. There should be **separate receptacles in the hall for recyclables**. We recommended a four-part plastic bin, either under the current Junior Church notice board, or in the hallway or vestibule. We would ask Jana for advice. We agreed that members of the eco-group should be responsible for emptying these (**not** Jana!). We discussed using one of the two waste bins in the upper hall for paper, but thought this was too complicated for visitors.

Eco-Church Survey

We concentrated on areas where our score was still below the “bronze” level.

- **Land**
- *2. The land at our church is managed for the encouragement of native wildlife (birds, animals and plants)* – Hector would talk to Martin about this. Sue undertook to contact Jim and Barbara Conseler (advertising as “Garden Evolution” in our magazine) for suggestions. Rosalind noted that in terms of maintenance, a “dry garden” would be the most suitable model to emulate.
- *4. Stocked wildlife feeding stations are present on our church land* – There was doubt as to how environmentally friendly this was. Helen had had a bird feeder, which encouraged sparrows, tits and a woodpecker.
- *7. Our church maintains an area of land for native wildflowers* – We would look at the meadow in front of the Federal Archive at the corner of Aegertenstrasse and come back with thoughts.
- *11. Our church undertakes wildlife (birds, animals and plants) surveys on our land* – Rosalind will look into the practicalities of this. We could excite interest by reporting snippets on the eco-notice board (when there is one 😊)
- *16. Our church actively encourages members of the local community to use the church land for recreation/contemplation* – We discussed the possibility of a meditation corner, perhaps with some sort of statuary as a prayerful focus. Helen undertook to seek out a possible site. Hector undertook to produce a notice for visitors (in E/F/D) welcoming them to use the church grounds for contemplation and (non-boisterous) relaxation.
- **Community and Global Engagement**
- *2. Our church (either alone or as part of a local network) engages with our local MP, AM, local council or Public Service Board on environmental matters* – We felt that this, and several other questions in this section, addressed an English environment, and needed “translating” into a Swiss context. Hector undertook to contact Elizabeth Bussmann (and potentially A Rocha) about this for concrete suggestions. We noted that there were members of the congregation (including Ester, Cecily and Dominic) who had their ear close to the ground and who could advise, though it was still difficult to know what we could do “as a church”.
- *16. Our church participates in campaigns concerning global environmental issues* – We felt we should be more actively involved in the projects encouraged by Brot für Alle (Pain pour le Prochain), Caritas and Partner Sein (Être Partenaires).
- *Our church participates in the Tearfund/Cord ‘Toilet Twinning’ scheme* – We felt that this was a specifically British idea, and that our contribution through TearFund to the Kigezi diocese water project counted as an equivalent. (It was subsequently commented that displaying any certificates awarded in the church toilets could serve to draw people’s attention to the scheme.)

Next meeting 8 August

Julie and Ernest Nelson, who are providing holiday cover for Helen, are enthusiastic environmentalists, have a lot of experience with similar church groups in England and would like to meet our group. We felt the best time was after the Thursday Eucharist on 8 August (say about 1115?), and hoped that as many as possible of us could attend. (Dogs and infants welcome!)

HD – 2019-07-26