**E c o c h u r c h** <https://ecochurch.arocha.org.uk/>

The whole intention of the A Rocha scheme called Ecochurch is to encourage people, communities, church groups to make a commitment to actions that have a bearing on the way humans are affecting the climate of our planet.

Currently the IPCC (a UN group) are predicting dire consequences if humanity as a whole does not reduce its emissions in the next 12 years. We each, as organisations and individuals, have a huge a pressing responsibility to do our bit "*to ensure the survival of life on earth*" (David Attenborough).

A Rocha have created a scheme whereby we as a church group can look at all aspects of our common life together and take actions that are possible and appropriate for us to do. We will not achieve all the goals (very few places do) but whatever we can do to help tackle the problem will be of benefit; and after all, we can only 'do what we can do'.

1

*There are five categories in which we can accrue credit by doing/achieving certain aspects in our corporate life:*

 **Worship and teaching**

 **Building management**

 **Land management**

 **Community and global engagement**

 **Lifestyle**

2

*Looking at the stories of other churches here are aspects which are relevant to Wellspring.*

Gas supply

Electricity supply

Eco-friendly cleaning products

Fair trade products

LED lights

Insulation of the church & annexe

Measuring carbon footprint

Energy-efficient lamp bulbs

Heating

Lighting

An expression of our Christian mission

Compost bin

Birdfeeder

Recycling - paper, cups, toilet paper

Wildlife friendly planting (in our own gardens, advice via *Peter Slack*)

Transition involvement

Services focusing on environmental matters

The hymns we sing

Prayer and worship elements centred on caring for the environment

 We need to apply these above thoughts to the Wellspring buildings and tothe Manse.

3

Other initiatives come into the category of 'recycle, re-use, repair' e.g. *'Tools with a mission'* .

4

There are also further possibilities for us to do *as individuals e.g.* TheBig bird Count in February**.**

This idea shows us that our approach to environmental matters needs to be in specific detail and in large-scale thinking; we need to think widely about these matters and the Big Bird Count is an example of how we can broaden our perspective.

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**The hope is that we never rest on our laurels but that these initiatives**

**spill over into our personal lives as well as in the life of Wellspring.**

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A copy of the detailed choices has been given to Kevin and he will talk briefly through those points.

Below is a summary of the points that we can look at to see how many of them are appropriate for our fellowship. They are wide-ranging and give us plenty of opportunities to make a difference.

Do *not* be over-awed by them and don't let any of them make us feel guilty. We will do what we can. The whole exercise is simply one of making us, as a church, more aware of our impact on the environment and then doing something to reduce that negative impact. And understanding that

the impetus driving us to do all of this is not simply to protect the planet *per se*, but to do what God has commanded us to do; it is our responsibility as Christians to respond in a caring manner to the urgency of the current situation.

*Paul**H*

*8th Nov 2018 & 1st Jan 2019*

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**WORSHIP & TEACHING**

1. Special Sundays relating to caring for God’s earth

2. The hymns and songs and liturgies in our church services enable us to celebrate God’s creation:

3. Our church prays for environmental issues

4. Caring for God’s earth is preached in our church

5. Our church hosts guest speakers from A Rocha UK or other Christian environmental organisations to talk about environmental issues

6. Caring for God’s earth features as a teaching theme in our church’s youth work:

7. Caring for God’s earth features as a teaching theme in our church’s children’s work:

8. Caring for God’s earth features as a focus of small group study in our church:

9. Our church’s communications (e.g. newsletters, service sheets, magazines, social media etc.) include items relating to the theme of caring for God’s earth

10. The leadership have made a formal commitment to improving the environmental credentials of our church by endorsing the undertaking of work towards an EcoChurch Award.

**LIFESTYLE**

1. Our church has appointed an individual or group to champion the cause of our church community

becoming more environmentally sustainable:

2. Walking and cycling to church services and events is promoted in our church

3. The reduction of car use is encouraged in our church:

4. The members of our church receive encouragement to undertake a personal carbon footprint audit:

5. Our church encourages members to reduce their personal energy consumption:

6. Our church encourages members to limit their waste by adhering to reduce, re-use, recycle:

7. Our church hosts activities or events that facilitate the recycling and/or reuse of goods *Transition event?*

8. Our church operates a communal Christmas and/or Easter card scheme among the congregation:

9. Personal use and consumption of Fairtrade and/or ethically sourced goods is promoted in our church:

10. Our church encourages members to use food at home that is LOAF (Locally grown, Organic, Animal-friendly, Fairtrade)

12. The ethical investment of personal savings is encouraged at our church:

13. Our church funds are ethically invested

14. Practical lifestyle tips and advice on caring for God’s earth are included in our church newsletters/on our church website

15. As part of our life together, the members of our church undertake an environmental lifestyle audit.

**BUILDINGS**

1. Is your church responsible for the premises in which it meets?

2. We have measured our energy use and calculated the carbon footprint of our church premises:

3. We have set sufficient targets for reducing the carbon footprint of our church premises

4. We offset the carbon footprint of our church premises for those things we can’t reduce:

5. The electricity supplied to our premises is generated from renewable resources or on a ‘green tariff’

6. The gas supplied to our premises is generated from renewable resources or on a ‘green tariff’

7. In terms of energy efficiency the main boiler on our church premises is rated as ?

8. Our church premises (*main church, church hall, church office, manse)* are **insulated** in various ways

9. Our church premises (*main church, church hall, church office, manse)* are **double-glazed**.

10. The **lighting** in our church premises (*main church, church hall, church office, manse)* uses energy-

efficient light bulbs

11. We have a policy designed to limit the amount of **energy consumed** by floodlighting and/or security

lighting around our church premises:

12. The **water supply** to our church premises is metered

14. The toilet cisterns on our church premises are fitted with dual-flush buttons or other water-saving

devices:

16. Recycled toilet paper is provided on our church premises:

17. The cleaning products used around our church premises are environmentally-friendly:

18. The disposables (e.g. paper cups and plates etc.) used on our church premises are:

Never use disposables Occasionally use disposables Biodegradable/Recyclable Non-biodegradable

19. We are reducing our paper usage (e.g. through double-sided copying/printing etc.):

20. Our church administration uses recycled paper:

21. In the event of **the need to undertake a building/refurbishment project**, our church would insist it

adhere to BREEAM (or similar) standard to ensure best practice in sustainable building design, construction and operation:

23. Recycling facilities are available on our church premises

24. Our church has given due consideration to the possibilities of generating renewable energy on our

premises (e.g. air or ground source heat pump, solar PV panels etc)

**LAND**

*(This section would probably only apply to Wellspring re the* ***Baptist Cemetery****)*

1. Does your church have influence over any land?

2. The land at our church is managed for the encouragement of native wildlife (animals and plants)

3. We encourage native wildlife on our church land through provision of the following:

 ***Bird Boxes***, Bug Hotel, Hedgehog Boxes

6. We grow plants on our land that benefit birds, bees, butterflies etc.

7. Our church maintains an area of land for native wildflowers:

8. Our church has researched and established a mowing regime appropriate to the conservation of

the grassland and wildlife present:

9. Our church avoids the use of harmful chemicals (pesticides, herbicides or fertilizers) in the management of our land (excluding paths and driveways):

10. Our church participates in responsible native tree planting schemes in accordance with guidance

from environment professionals:

11. Our church undertakes wildlife (birds, animals and plants) surveys on our land:

14. Composting facilities are available on our church land:

15. Our church actively encourages members to use church **land** for recreation/contemplation (e.g.

picnics, prayer etc.):

16. Our church actively encourages members of the local community to use the church land for

recreation/contemplation:

17. Our church has established a management plan for the land for which we are responsible:

**COMMUNITY AND GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT**

1. Our church organises events providing an opportunity for local people to engage with local leaders on local environmental issues

2. Our church (either alone or as part of a local network) engages with local MP, AM, local council etc

3. Our church arranges for local environmentalists to speak in our services:

4. Our church (either alone or as part of a local network) works with local sustainability movements like

Transition Towns:

5. Our church organises environmental awareness-raising events (e.g. film evenings, Fairtrade events)

6. Our church is involved with local conservation work (eg. RSPB/WildlifeTrusts nature reserve):

7. At least some of our church members (either alone or as part of a local network) have organised and/or participated in a community clean-up project (e.g. local litter-pick):

9. Our church organises events providing an opportunity for local people to get out and enjoy God’s earth in our local area (e.g. walks, cycle rides etc.):

10. Our church either provides or supports a local car-share scheme (this includes members giving lifts)

11. Users of our church premises are encouraged to minimise resource use

12. Our church actively promotes Eco Church to other local churches:

13. Our church has committed to pray for a speciﬁc overseas environmental project

15. Our church participates in campaigns concerning national environmental issues:

16. Our church participates in campaigns concerning global environmental issues:

17. Our church participates in the Tearfund ‘Toilet Twinning’ scheme

18. Our church keeps the congregation informed about the impact of climate change and environ-mental degradation on Christian communities elsewhere in the world:

19. Our church financially supports an environmental charity:

20. Our church is registered with the Fairtrade Foundation as a Fairtrade Church:

21. Wherever possible, Fairtrade and/or ethically sourced goods are used at church services and events:

22/23. Any meals provided by the church use ***organic*** food that is ***locally*** grown:

24. Any meals provided by the church use food that is ***animal-friendly***:

25. Any meals provided by the church use ***Fairtrade*** ***ingredients***:

26. Any meals provided by the church include a ***vegetarian*** and /or ***vegan*** option:

27. Our church takes steps to reduce food waste (e.g. composting, minimising leftovers).