



Thames North Synod Synod Environmental Update

Paper D
22 October
2022

The Synod Green Team

Following the agreement of the Thames North Synod Environmental Policy and the appointment of Synod Green Apostles at the March 2022 Synod, the Synod 'Green Team' has met several times to plan its work. The Team consists of four Green Apostles, Peter Skerratt (a member of St Andrew's Church Ealing, SW London Group) Maggie Hindley (a retired minister and member of North Harrow URC in the Metropolitan North Group) Terry Hinks (minister of Trinity High Wycombe and Cores End Churches in the Chiltern Group) and Jill Nugent (member of Cheshunt Free Church in the Enfield and East Herts Group) and three other members, Anna Barrett (a member of Greenwood in the Heartland Group), Andrew Mills (a member of St John's URC New Barnet, North London Group) and Peter Musgrave (a member of the Vine Church, East London Group). They introduced themselves to the Synod at an online meeting on 4 October 2022 – the final day of the Season of Creation (1 September – 4 October). If you did not mark the Season at your church this year, why not plan it into your church diary for 2023? See the website at <https://seasonofcreation.org/>

Eco Churches

Each member of the Green Team is making contact with their local groups and churches to encourage every church to become involved in the Eco Church movement – to register and work steadily towards an award. At the last count the Synod had 26 churches registered as Eco Churches and 11 with awards (bronze or silver). If your church is yet to register, please look at the very helpful Eco Church website or invite one of the Green Team to introduce it to your elders or church.
<https://ecochurch.arochoa.org.uk/>

Energy Crisis

The energy crisis is bringing home to us all the problems of our present reliance on fossil fuels, the insecurities and injustices of the global energy industry and the lack of visionary long-term planning by government. Locally we all have a real concern for those who are experiencing fuel poverty. Our nation has one of the poorest average energy ratings in its housing stock among European nations – a strong campaign of insulations and saving energy needs to be part of the plan for this winter. The 'Warm this Winter' campaign is seeking good and fair solutions for the energy crisis
www.warmthiswinter.org.uk/

The Green Book Group

There is so much to learn and discuss as we consider our care of the planet and response to the environmental crises. If you would like to read more – and discuss it with others – why not join the Green Book Group. Contact Peter Skerratt for more information (email below).

Synod developments

The Synod Office staff is looking at its own green credentials (using the Ecochurch survey) as part of the work towards becoming a Bronze Award Eco Synod. The Resources Committee are exploring the idea of setting up a 'Green Fund' to support Eco projects and are already supporting local church projects with an environmental focus. They welcome applications for grants.

Please get in touch

We would like to develop a mailing list to keep in contact with people across the Synod. We also welcome any enquiries or questions. Your contacts for the team are:

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