

## **Notes on the meeting of the Environmental Footprint Group, 27 May 2009**

Present: Ionutz Bandrabur, Michael Destiny, Roderick Dunnett, Edward Seymour, Philippa Seymour

1. We started by going through the Church Council's response to the recommendations we sent last year. In general we welcomed the Council's detailed response and the action it has taken. A few follow-up points were made:

1.1 We wondered whether it is really impossible to get energy-efficient light bulbs that provide adequate lighting for high-ceilinged rooms. Roderick will investigate.

1.2 We wondered whether the Vicarage already has thermostats on its radiators – if not, these might improve energy efficiency at low cost.

1.3 Ionutz pointed out that laser jet printers are more efficient than inkjet. Printing 4 pages on one sheet is a way of saving paper if the result is still legible.

1.4 We proposed that church members should be given the option of receiving an electronic version of the Konvikt magazine instead of a paper copy. Paper copies would still be available but there would be a smaller print run.

1.5 We felt that the Environment Group should be given a more prominent position on the church website – our recommendations are there, but are quite hard to find. Perhaps we could have a page devoted to green matters, which could include energy-saving tips and links to other sites. Roderick and Ionutz will make contact with Chris Vaudrey to see what can be done.

2. With regard to the 13 points for further research we identified last year, and the further proposal that the Chaplain should speak to the Group about Christians and the environment, we decided to take further action as follows.

2.1 In view of the difficulty of getting sufficient numbers of people together for a meeting, Philippa proposed that the Chaplain should not be invited to speak just to the Environment Group, but that he and Joan should be asked on some suitable date to conduct a Sunday service with an environmental theme. Unfortunately World Environment Day – 5 June – was too soon and anyway the nearest Sunday would be occupied with the Church Fair. Members of the Group would help as required – Edward offered to think of some suitable hymns.

2.2 Edward will investigate the availability of green funerals in Luxembourg.

2.3 The Chaplain had informed Philippa of the existence of an ecumenical environment group in Luxembourg. Philippa will follow this up and see if it offers any scope for sharing resources.

3. Michael told us about his work in Africa raising awareness of environmental damage and what individuals could do to help – an example being that African farmers were well aware that rainfall patterns were changing to the detriment of their crops, but unaware that burning rubbish and surplus grass was contributing to global

warming. He stressed the importance of education. Roderick will ask the Charities Committee to bear this in mind when selecting charities for support.

4. There was brief discussion of some more philosophical questions raised by Roderick, such as whether more good is done by alleviating poverty than by combating climate change. We concluded that it is impossible to separate these aims, and that in view of what Michael had told us, combating climate change could help people grow more food and thus alleviate poverty. We stressed the importance of support for charities, and education in the third world, particularly of girls.