

The Anglican Church of Luxembourg

Environmental Footprint Group AGM Report 2015-2016

The EFG met four times in 2015, covering our usual broad spectrum of issues under the general heading of how best to live in the world without damaging it.

In April Ingo Hanke dazzled us with his knowledge of world religions and their various views of human beings' place in the cosmos. We can learn a lot from other religions – particularly perhaps that of the North American Lakota tribe, which maintains that this world *is* the paradise that human beings must take care of. We also concluded that if adherents of all religions took their faith more seriously, they would also take their environmental responsibilities more seriously. In June we watched the film *Inequality for all* by Robert Reich, and were reminded that environmental issues and social justice issues such as inequality go hand in hand. In September Gerry Aiken talked about 'Permaculture – using nature to deal with change', and explained how the recycling ethos of permaculture also applies to man-made organisations and even churches. In December Steve McCarthy talked us through the Pope's encyclical *Laudato Si*, which covers inequality as well as climate change, and calls for people to stop believing in the myth of unlimited material progress and live more simply.

Earlier this year we were asked by the Diocese to complete an environmental stewardship review, and found that as a church we are already taking most of the suggested action on the environment. One area we have not yet tackled is ethical investment, and we will be looking into this. We also plan to draw up an environmental stewardship policy document which we will put to the Council.

Reports of our meetings are on the Church website. We welcome suggestions of topics for future meetings and volunteers to lead them.

Philippa Seymour