

The Anglican Church of Luxembourg

Environmental Footprint Group report for 2016-2017

The EFG met only once in 2016, when Peter Carter gave us a fascinating insight into the workings of the United Nations Green Climate Fund. Those on the mailing list were also kept informed of other events on environmental themes taking place in Luxembourg. This relatively quiet period allowed time for thought and consultation about the future direction of the EFG. People had many different ideas but the common theme was that the group was doing a useful job and should continue. At the same time the church was planning to start a Human Rights group and adopt a more coordinated approach to awareness-raising and action on current issues.

The result was that the Environmental Footprint Group merged with the Human Rights group at the end of 2016 to form one Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation (JPIC) group, run by Evelyn Sweerts, Simon Norcross and Philippa Seymour and reporting directly to the Church Council. This group widens the EFG's already wide sphere of interest to include human rights issues. It continues to meet at irregular intervals when there is a speaker with something to say. So far this year we have heard Campbell Thomson speak about the environmental and human solidarity aspects of tourism. (See Lumen for a summary of this talk). On 10 May Evelyn Sweerts will talk about Anglican attitudes to social action, on 22 May Johan van Damme will talk about the Dark Web, and we plan several meetings about refugees.

Members of other churches and none continue to be encouraged to attend. Although this is a thinktank rather than an action committee, it will actively seek to make connections with groups in Luxembourg that are taking action, such as CELL, Greenpeace, ACAT, Stëmm vun der Strooss, etc., and will invite people from such groups as speakers from time to time. And it will work closely with the Anglican Church Charities Committee to propose causes that should be supported financially.

Philippa Seymour