

Brunswick Church Eco survey Oct 2024

Aim- To see what impact our Eco activities have had over the past year to learn what church members think of priorities and direction for the future

Response- 21 surveys out of a regular congregation of 40-50 adults per week - which we are very pleased with

Some Findings – please refer to attached Graphical summary PDF

- Congregation wants to know more about all sort of Eco Activity for themselves (70% plus at every ask)
- There have been a lot of actions undertaken in past year by many of congregation members – see graph on page 7 and lists below for examples
- Overall, there have been small changes to behaviours because of Church activities – with Notices/ weekly news and specific Creation care events having most impact (see Graph on page 14)
- The Congregation priorities are slightly different from the eco leads! (see table below)

What is important (using eco church categories)

	Worship & Teaching	Church Building	Church Land	Community & Global engagement	Individual lifestyle
Score (lowest best)	57	48	68	66	61
Our View	2	1	5	4	3
	1	4	4	3	1

- As you would expect in Brunswick there are a variety of views – please see comments regarding “future” and “anything else” below

PCC questions

- What are your views on these interim results and comments?
- What would you like the ECO Leads to do next?
- We have stuff to celebrate: many people have made changes and want to find out and do more- suggestions for how we can do this ?
- Whose views have we not heard and how do we evaluate and consider them within our decision-making process?

What should our collective future look like?

Warmer building, more activities for the children

More people involved in care of community stuff e.g. Gardening, maintenance

Being able to easily buy more produce not in plastic packaging. Campaigning for supermarkets to reduce amount of fresh produce packaged in plastic. Eating less meat/dairy - sharing ideas for good vegetarian alternatives. Buying less stuff! Sharing stuff, we have with each other. Driving less/changing car to electric when more affordable.

Currently don't have a vision for this except trying to use more ecofriendly transport and products

Engagement with government, council to put pressure on them to make significant changes

The continued message from church has shaped our decisions as a family. We have house insulation, electric car and further home growing in our plans for the next 12 months, based on what we hear at church regularly. I think the climate prayers and the drip feeding in the notices has made this shift in our thoughts. As church also considers further building work, we should also consider how we insulate and heat as an inspiration that these decisions can be made with an ecofriendly heart.

No food waste. Only buying clothes second hand or from demonstrably ethical and sustainable sources.

A completely insulated building, more people using the building as a warm space, more people bring plant based food naturally.

Any Further Comments ?

- "We all know where we're going wrong and what we can do to make things better. Most of the things suggested here are very difficult or impossible to change, and even if they are changed, it just seems to be tinkering around the edges. The lifestyles of everyone in both the western and the developing world (BRIC) would need to change drastically to effect any real change. I believe that the answer lies in technology- Alternative power generation methods and carbon capture Solutions and as a church we should be praying for God to inspire our engineers to push the solution and for governments to invest in them."
- We need a massive culture and lifestyle change generally but also there seems to be a difference in how different culture's view creation care - just from observing e.g. prolific use of plastic bags still, littering etc. in some areas. Not sure how that is addressed sensitively.
- I am not sure Sunday services are the place for all the teaching, and particularly some of the personal / individual lifestyle teaching we might need/want on eco issues. Are there other spaces where we could gather to learn and focus on some of the specifics of this? e.g. on a Friday evening, on a Saturday workshop, on the weekend away?
- There can't be many other churches in Manchester with a (small but) mighty team so passionate about the environment. Is there any way we can share what we're doing?
- Keep on!
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ECO SURVEY DETAILS

Things People have done in past year to reduce Energy consumption at Home

"LED Lights

Use a stove instead of gas heating"

live in a new build property

turning down heating, using draft excluders

"draft excluders

not using heating at all as often as possible"

"electric blankets instead of heating

make sure lights are off when not in use

only flush toilets when necessary"

I try to reduce by switching off switches

Turning Thermostat down

Turned Thermostat down , used energy saving bulbs in all rooms, stopped having unnecessary lights on , draft excluders, loft insulation. solar cells

Turning down thermostat. Reducing number of hours heating on.

Draft excluder fitted

Turning lights off

Turned thermostat down, stopped using fan heater, bought electric blanket for working from home, bought Oodies or similar for whole family.

Being intentional about using less electricity and reducing heating

Not turning on heating every time I'm cold. Blankets and jumpers!

Reduce cooking times, fill up washing machine, keep the heating down, use more layers instead of having heating on,

"Bought solar panels

Underfloor insulation"

Turning off lights. Being very sparse with heating!

I don't use the heater

Solar panels, oodies

Things people have done in past year to reduce, re-use and recycle

recycle soft plastic

use refills as much as possible

avoiding plastic, re-using things, not overbuying

"Using refills

Separating items for different recycling bins"

To recycle products and put in the correct bin

Yes, we now recycle more as a family

All waste is recycled. Reduced purchases with plastic packaging

Collecting plastic trays etc. not recyclable in Manchester and giving to friend from area where they can be recycled.

Recycle more than we used to. Working on getting better at reusing plastic carrier bags for shopping

Seeking to use more recyclable packaging; reducing plastic use, especially bottles, recycling clothes

"Taking soft plastics to supermarket to recycle

Making plastic free choices (SMOL) and fruit and veg if plastic free available

Plastic containers that aren't recycled here, give to a family member who recycles them in their area.

Reusing plastic water bottles, and plastic meat containers for holding water for plants to sit in."

Improving everyday

We have begun recycling both hard and soft plastics.

Lots more recycling

Taking plastic to relatives where it is collected

Re-using