Climate change and Brunswick Parish Church – the biggest issue facing the planet?

At last PCC of 2019/2020 (September)following a paper from Edwin, the PCC resolved to

“PCC noted Edwin’s paper and its challenging nature. **It was agreed that policy would be to do what we could on ECO church and campaign for green issues to become more affordable**. Gordon would ask OMI re implications for Refurb building and heating. The 3 specific recommendations to be reviewed quarterly”

The three specific recommendations being:

1. Going through the results of the surveys and coming up with priorities, timelines, and goals for responding to each one. Especially starting with the low hanging fruit (easiest wins with the biggest impacts)

2. Looking at our environmental behaviours from two angles: a) corporate policies and actions of the church (guiding church choices); and b) supporting and encouraging personal culture change and actions of individuals (guiding individual behaviours).

3. Campaigning for and implementing system change

3 months on- several events and updates have occurred

* Edwin and Gordon recently met virtually to discuss the next steps on the process- the huge issue that being green is more expensive and Church is located the lowest 5% of deprived neighbourhoods is noted , but that should not stop us progressing.
* Edwin has outlined tare and written for weekly newsboth ve
* Gordon attended the North West Region Eco Church webinar which shared how both Urban and Rural churches can begin to make a real difference on this major issue.
* Our Mission Partner Tear Fund has prioritised Climate change in its campaigns and asked us to get involved.

It is proposed that Climate change should become a priority for Brunswick and that

specific policy decisions are needed if this is to be taken beyond a tokenism – suggestions include:

* Teaching and Preaching to raise awareness and understanding – this was priority in all examples mentioned in the webinar and an essential first step.
* Measurement on where we are as a Church and specific actions to make change in both Church life and individual actions.
* A conscious Strategy so that everything we do in church has a “green question mark” when we make decisions – Activities should have “green ways” included.
* We need to initiate, help, and lead with Co-operative activities locally.
* We need to be Campaigning on Green issues as a Church and encourage members to do same – Tear Fund campaign is an example.

We propose that over the next 12 months we should

* Agree the detail in policy – which means PCC needs to think more about the area and agree some policies and actions- PCC to give more time to think/ decide about this
* Find some campaigns to support – possible from ECO Church website, and Tear Fund is majoring on Climate change campaign.
* Start Measurement of Church activity- perhaps through Maintenance team
* Agree that there will be some teaching / preaching on this subject – discussion at next Preachers and leaders or set up a separate group as proposed by Tear Fund
* Agree some Corporate Church action / activity for early 2021
* Suggest some individual awareness actions and changes

Specific actions for the next 3 months are:

1. Ensure we have a baseline measurement of Church activities- *Gordon*
2. That Eco Church Survey is re -examined and a list of next specific actions be created- *Edwin*
3. Check if “360degree carbon” offers any / different measurement to Eco Church -*Edwin*
4. There needs to be a Climate Change Monthly Notice- either activity or campaign that Church members can get involved in – *Gordon and Edwin*
5. Specific offers/ actions that are cost neutral should be investigated – these involve: *Both*
   1. ECO washing sheets rather than plastic containers from Supermarket
   2. Looking to see if Bulk buying can reduce green products price (e.g. Whogivesacrap loo paper)
   3. Ensure church starts to use Eco Products for cleaning and recycled paper
6. Engage others at Church (young people?) to get them involved in these actions- To ask Naomi (x2), and Jess – *Gordon*
7. Continue to engage with OMI regarding ReFurb being as eco-friendly as possible-especially with heating and energy supplies *Gordon*

This is a global issue that must be embedded, cross cutting and woven through all other activities and decisions. Otherwise it’s just nominal and thus not really part of "what it means to be Brunswick”. We need to be up front that it is a real challenge and will involve a lot of work.

***PCC are asked to agree the importance of the Climate emergency and start to embed the “green question mark” into all activities. They are asked to approve the 12 month and 3-month plans***

***If anyone from PCC would like to join a group to take this forward, please contact Edwin or Gordon.***