

## **Second meeting of St Barnabas environment committee**

### **27 April 2010**

Liz Marsden (note taking), Steve Bishop, Wendy Jackson, Robin George

Our discussion focussed on:-

1. Deciding on installing a rainwater harvesting as a first major project
2. Brainstorming fundraising ideas for this project
3. Introducing our ideas at the Patronal festival service and the Family Fayre in June
4. Inviting a speaker and having an environmental 'theme' at the harvest festival service in October
5. St Barnabas carbon offset scheme
6. Progress on areas for improvement from Eco-congregation checklist discussed at previous meeting

#### **1. Deciding to focus on rainwater harvesting as a first major project**

We decided that rainwater harvesting in the church hall would be a suitable project to start with. It would involve fitting pipework from the gutters on the roof to a tank with a filter system. The clean rainwater would then be used to flush the two toilets in the church hall. We also discussed fitting solar (PV) panels, but decided the cost would be significantly more (we assume). Also the church roof will need replacing in the next 10 years, so if solar panels were fitted now, there would be additional costs of removing solar panels and re-fitting when the roof is re-done.

'Harvesting' the rainwater led to the suggestion of using a 'harvest' theme, both in terms of fundraising ideas and as a suitable time of year for inviting an environmental speaker to an 'environment' themed service.

Steve will research cost of a rainwater harvesting system.

In addition to fundraising ideas below, it was suggested we ask whether the money donated in Colin Duncan's will might be spent on a project like rainwater harvesting.

#### **2. Ideas for fundraising for rainwater harvesting project**

##### ***Cash for free! / Sow the seed, reap the harvest appeal***

**What is it?** - Members of the congregation, who would like to take part, will be given £5 each and asked to make a profit on it, and bring back their £5, plus hopefully some profit. There will be an option for groups of people, eg uniformed groups, Men's group etc to ask for more money, up to a max of £25. This fits in with the theme of harvest, and

reaping what is sown. We will ask whether some money from the church might be available for this – max £500. (It should be noted it was Robin's radical idea to give away cash to raise cash!).

**When will it take place?** – We would like to explain the plan during the Patronal festival service and pledges to take £5 can be made at a 'Green stall' at the Family Fayre immediately afterwards. The money will be available for collection at the following Sunday's service. The 'investors' will be asked to bring their money and profits back at the harvest festival service. There will be a prize for the most money made.

*Ebay harvest* (we didn't have time to think of a witty name!)

**What is it?** – Members of the congregation, uniformed groups and church hall users etc bring items that they no longer have a use for, which will then be sold on Ebay. The profits can be shared with the person bringing the item if they wish, for example if it is a very high value item. They can decide on the ratio. It was suggested there might be a rota for those selling the items, as it is quite a lot of work.

**When is it?** – It can be announced in Ichthus and at the Family Fayre, and items can be brought to church on an ongoing basis. At the Harvest Festival service there will be a prize for the person bringing in the most money. This could possibly continue on a permanent basis, and echoes the environmental message of re-use, recycle.

### *Silent Auction*

**What is it?** – An auction, where all the lots are laid out for viewing, and those attending can wander around and view items, writing their bids on a form next to the item, so the final and therefore highest bid wins. The advantage is that those taking part can take their time to consider a possible purchase, rather than being forced to make a quick decision.

**When is it?** – A suggested date is July 10<sup>th</sup>, as there are few other events at that time.

### 3. Introducing our ideas at the Patronal festival service and the Family Fayre in June

It was decided that the Patronal festival would be a good opportunity to introduce the fundraising ideas and to launch carbon offset scheme before the holidays, as there will be a large congregation (hopefully!).

We will also have a stall at the Fayre, with information about what good environmental practices St Barnabas have put in place already (eg Tubb's spuds!), possibly a game, perhaps to win the honour of being the first to flush the new rainwater flushing system, once it is installed! Liz will look into the possibility of selling some re-usable bags on the stall.

#### 4. Inviting a speaker and having an environmental 'theme' at the harvest festival service in October

As mentioned above, the rainwater harvesting project seemed to fit nicely with a harvest theme, so we discussed the possibility of inviting an environmental speaker to our service. There is no speaker booked yet according to the booklet we were given with services listed. It was suggested that the Diocese of Southwark might be able to provide a speaker to talk on environmental matters, possibly from the Board of Education? We will ask Sue Myers, who is connected to Southwark through her SPA course and might have a contact. We also discussed the possibility of one of ourselves using the opportunity to speak to the congregation about our environmental plans instead of inviting an 'official' speaker.

#### 5. St Barnabas carbon offset scheme

This can be launched immediately. The idea has already been introduced in the April edition of Ichthus. People could be asked to donate varying amounts for long/short haul flights, or for Europe/USA/ rest of world possibly. If they wish too, they could donate for car journeys undertaken to church. Steve will look into setting up a Paypal account for the church, so offsetting donations could be paid directly into the account. Alternatively, cheques could be given to Roy, or cash could be put in a box. Liz will look for a car/aeroplane money box, which could be used.

#### 6. Progress on areas for improvement from Eco-congregation checklist discussed at previous meeting

We also briefly discussed some areas for improvement from Eco congregation checklist, noting some progress has already been made.

##### **Church management**

Recycled paper fed through the printer successfully, so Carol now sources recycled paper as standard.

Fair trade tea and coffee purchased now.

It was noted that polystyrene cups were used for Roger's leaving service. We were not sure whether this was due to using up existing supply.

##### **Church land**

Bill Tubb has planted potatoes in the spare land at the side of the church.

Daphne Palmer has offered a buddleia plant which could be used in the church grounds

The development of a nature trail was discussed. The idea of a competition, either for the uniformed groups or for the adult congregation, to design a nature trail with information posts was suggested.

We also hope to go ahead with planting a wild flower meadow on the far right bank where the church borders with the neighbouring property. This would need mowing twice a year, which the community service team could help with. Planting nature-attracting plants such as rosemary, sage and lavender, which also cope well with dry ground, was suggested for near the memorial garden and by the wall of the church. Wendy will look into the prices of wildflower seed and rosemary sage and lavender plants.

### **Church property**

A green electricity tariff will not be possible until 2012, when the current fixed rate runs out.

### **Worship**

We need to find out who is on the worship team before we can speak to them about the suggestions from the previous meeting.

### **Youth and Children's work**

We briefly discussed visiting the uniformed groups to encourage recycling and re-use, with procurement of recyclable items being suggested to leaders. The idea of Zero waste was also mentioned, but a fuller discussion on this will be needed in future meetings.

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We also discussed other possible sources of funding awards/grants for environmental work at the church:-

*Wates Foundation*

*Metropolitan Gardens Association* – for work around the grounds

*Croydon Voluntary Action* – Grassroots grants

*Awards for All* - if we can show them that the church hall is predominantly used by the community, rather than just by the church congregation and they accept this.

### Next steps

We would like to present these plans to the PCC. We had hoped to present the ideas at the last PCC meeting, but there was no time on the agenda.

Steve will mention the ideas to the Standing Committee on 5 May. Robin will hopefully present the ideas to the PCC on 10 May.