

TERMS OF REFERENCE/PURPOSE

When I joined the PCC in 2004, there were two things that encouraged me to start this new group. First, I have always had a strong interest in environmental matters and social responsibility generally and recycling in particular, and second, Guildford was starting on the path to becoming a Fair Trade Diocese and we (as a PCC) wanted to support this.

After discussions we took two initial actions. We joined the Eco-congregation scheme to give us a framework for our thoughts and actions (the folder is kept in the Parish Office), and we took steps to become a Fairtrade church by going over to centralised purchasing of Fairtrade tea and coffee for serving at Parish events. We also started to have a Traidcraft stall on the 1st Sunday of each month. In addition, I undertook to try and write regularly for the Parish magazine, highlighting different Fair Trade issues/opportunities (eg. Fairtrade fortnight, Dorking as a Fair Trade town) and publicising new recycling initiatives (eg Mole Valley Freecycle).

We continue to develop recycling awareness as a congregation, by challenging ourselves to find outlets for an increasing variety of items (see attached list). I feel very strongly that we should also try to support "the other end" of recycling, so we have investigated purchasing recycled paper products in the church office. So far this has been disappointing in that the cost of such papers is greater.

We decided not to pursue the Eco Congregation award as a goal in its own right, but to use their material as a framework for our thinking. Maybe now we have made progress we should reconsider it? Some groups have followed parts of the material for services/study.

I am currently considering something like a "Sustainable Bookham" day for 2008 - an open day for the village measuring carbon footprints, having a talk on global warming etc. This might be enough to take us forward for the award, especially with all the other things we've done, but do we want to go down that path?

I have represented St Nicolas and spoken/written about our work for Churches Together meetings, Mole Valley Chairman's Open Day and the Deanery Synod.

MEMBERSHIP/MEETINGS

Initial discussions at the PCC were that we shouldn't make Social Responsibility a full committee, that it should be more of an awareness exercise, and that I should be a co-ordinator. This was confirmed at the Open Meeting for the all the congregation held in September 2006. However, in July 07 it has been decided to expand the PCC Committee system, and I now welcome Alan Green and Sarah Heafield to join me as a full Committee.

FINANCE

Very little money is involved. I liaise with Ruth Dyson (on behalf of the Social Committee) when new supplies of tea/coffee are needed.

I order and pay for the Traidcraft goods myself as an individual Fair Trader, charging only the discounted price on the stall. Money for orders for individuals is paid direct to me once the goods have arrived. The idea of the stall is not to be a fund raiser, but to promote awareness of Fair Trade issues and the widening range of goods available.

I try to hold a Fair Trade tea party during Fairtrade fortnight, and money from that goes to Traidcraft Exchange.

Profits from any onward sales of items we recycle/distribute go to various charities (see attached list).

Margaret Hibbert
25th September 2007