

York Circuit Eco Task Force Update June 2022



Eco Task Force

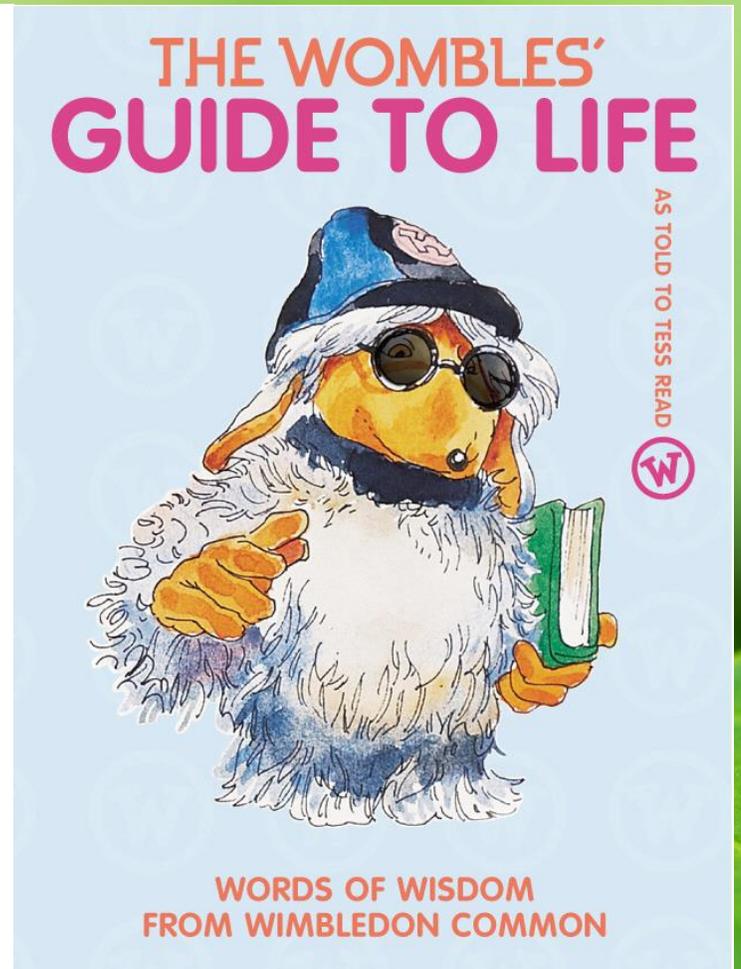
‘We have a growing group of people coming together with a ‘hive mind’ of great ideas and insights’

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Information Sharing

Spring 2022 Circuit Newsletter included:

- An invitation to embrace your inner womble 'making good use of the things that we find' with **Rethink, Reuse, Recycle ideas**



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***Prayers for our
planet and
reflections***

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Lent ideas

- A more eco friendly bathroom
- Trying a plant-based diet
- A simple swap – washing up liquid
- Wildlife friendly gardening
- Improve recycling
- Active intentional shopping
- One 'less' thing at a time

**What's your
Pledge for the Planet?**



Can you change 1 thing during Lent?

**The Circuit Eco Task Force will give you
ideas each week.**

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March – Poppleton, Bill shared the 'Journey so far' working with their Anglican neighbours towards Eco Church. The emphasis was on 'getting started'

April – Acomb, Kath showed us around their community garden and we heard about 'York Green Corridors' Project from Beki of St Nicks Fields



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Haxby and Wigginton

Work with NHS Property and the village GP surgery is bearing fruit as plans to create a community garden on the site progress.

‘Whole Life Community Garden’ will encourage physical and mental health through gardening and growing fruit and veg with social prescribing, mindfulness and a peaceful place and opportunity to create something beautiful.



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Acomb

Acomb have been granted additional funding from Centrica as part of a District 'Tea and PV' application to enable the installation of solar PV for their garden room.

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Steps taken so far:

1. The Circuit has registered intent to become an Eco Circuit
2. A draft Circuit Environmental Policy has been prepared for discussion
3. A number of churches are working towards their church Eco Church awards – Haxby and Wigginton, Acomb, Poppleton, Heworth, Strensall. Several others have shown interest.

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Circuit Environmental Policy – Draft for discussion

The heavens are yours, the earth also is yours; the world and all that is in it – you have founded them. Psalm 89:11

The calling of the Methodist Church is to respond to the gospel of God's love in Christ and to live out its discipleship in worship and mission.

Caring for creation is one of the ways we as churches, can share God's love with others, challenge injustice and help people in our own communities and beyond.



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Circuit Environmental Policy – Draft for discussion

Rather than having environmental issues as a separate agenda item for the Circuit and its Churches, this policy seeks to encourage all churches to embed care for God's creation in all aspects of decision making. It is a way of living well and considerately with all those we are connected with; whether our local communities, global neighbours or the natural world. It is the recognition that all of our actions have an impact on those around us. This policy seeks to encourage us to make sure our impact is 'net zero', but also challenges us to be transformative in our communities.

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Circuit Environmental Policy – Draft for discussion

The York Methodist Circuit policy is to:

- Ensure our Methodist response to the climate crisis is at the heart of our worship, discipleship and theological reflection.
- Use our assets including buildings, land and other resources to reflect and prioritise our care for all God's creation and future generations
- Let the Methodist Way of Life and call for climate justice inform change in our corporate and individual lifestyles

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Circuit Environmental Policy into Practice – Draft for discussion

York Circuit goals are:

- 10% of churches registered as Eco Churches by 2022 and 20% by 2024
- Implement training for local preachers and worship leaders to inspire and assist them address environmental concerns in worship either through one off or regular inputs to worship
- Encourage churches to hold an annual Eco Sunday and help signpost them to imaginative worship resources

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Circuit Environmental Policy into Practice

– Draft for discussion

- Improve the insulation and heating controls at Circuit office hub by 2023
- Continue to review reduce/reuse/recycle practice at hub and use ethically sourced cleaning products
- Encourage the sharing of resources Circuit wide through use of hub storage and Circuit networks
- Debate divestment from fossil fuel and other ethical considerations for managing our finances

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Circuit Environmental Policy into Practice

– Draft for discussion

- Instruct all Quinquennials (churches, manses and other properties) to include Energy Performance Certificates/ Energy Audits and to consider recommendations for manses and other Circuit properties where appropriate and encourage churches to make improvements through assistance with grant fund writing and MTM grants where mission criteria are met

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Circuit Environmental Policy into Practice

– Draft for discussion

- Encourage every Church Council to include consideration of the cost to the environment and impact on our global neighbours for all decisions
- Encourage churches to also think beyond 'Net Zero'; where can they have a positive impact in their environment
- Encourage all churches to share what environmental steps they and their community partners are taking in their local Church and Circuit magazine, website and social media

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Circuit Environmental Policy into Practice

– Draft for discussion

- Encourage travel for Circuit events that facilitates public transport/bike/walking or car-pooling where possible and make use of Zoom where appropriate to save on environmental costs
- Offer plant based food products as default with animal sources as an option at Circuit events

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What's coming up?

June – on-line on **Monday 20th June at 7.30pm** we'll be looking at the 'Lifestyle' area of Eco church.

July – we will meet in-person at Poppleton Methodist. We'll be looking at their new build, new gardens and also having a talk on alternative forms of energy.

Sept – Circuit Environmental Policy to Circuit Council for approval