

## Notes from the Eco Church Meeting 7<sup>th</sup> July 2024

- The Eco Church garden team updated us on developments in the garden (see notes from the Eco church garden meeting).
- David Matthews explained about a sculpture by a Mozambican artist, made from dismantled weapons, that he and Clare have donated to the Eco Church garden. He will make a wooden base on wheels for it, with an explanation of its significance.  
He plans to unveil it on 28<sup>th</sup> July when he is preaching.
- We have received £350 in compensation from St Peter's College for the damage to the garden on the day of their ball.
- Catherine Black told us about a garden twinning scheme  
[https://rippleeffect.org/get-involved/giving/garden-twinning?gad\\_source=1&gclid=CjwKCAjwnK60BhA9EiwAmPHZwxHTxl357CzncaJD5uiWOGWW4DmhES-NX8IMWHggGAjxiuKpo24I5hoCuewQAvD\\_BwE](https://rippleeffect.org/get-involved/giving/garden-twinning?gad_source=1&gclid=CjwKCAjwnK60BhA9EiwAmPHZwxHTxl357CzncaJD5uiWOGWW4DmhES-NX8IMWHggGAjxiuKpo24I5hoCuewQAvD_BwE)  
The cost of this is £60 for a private garden and £120 for a community garden. It was agreed that we would organise a cake/plant sale to fund this.
- Derek reported on the Eco Church building group.  
The Quinquennial inspection has identified that work needs to be done on the roof of the hall. The Eco Church buildings group want to put solar panels on this roof, so it makes sense to combine the two projects if possible. Grants may be available from the Connexion, through the District, between September-December and we need to be ready to put in a bid.  
James Black has organised a quote that suggested this will cost us approx £15,000 with scaffolding.  
We will need planning permission.  
With such a small system it is not worth having a battery.  
We will be looking to get grants from several places, including Low Carbon Hub. It could pay for itself in as little as 2.9 years.  
We could ask the congregation to donate a panel  
Lighting the building well is also a mission opportunity as it makes the building more welcoming.  
A heat pump would probably not work for us in such a large, energy-leaking building. It was suggested that we talk to Kidlington about this.  
We also need to arrange a visit to some churches that have already installed solar panels (Didcot and Leicester).
- Derek suggested that we set up a group with people who know something about ethical investment and who might be willing to share this with people who want to invest.
- Catherine asked me to add this link from Low Carbon Oxford North:  
<https://lcon.org.uk/energy/housewarming/>  
She has some paper copies of these guides if anyone would like to borrow them.

Jo Godfrey