

Pause for Thought

*'The era of procrastination, of half-measures, of soothing and baffling expedients, of delays, is coming to its close. In its place we are entering a period of consequences.'*

Winston Churchill, 1936, quoted by Al Gore in 'An Inconvenient Truth'

*'So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! All this is from God, who reconciled to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself.'*

2 Corinthians 5:17-19a

A Case in Point

(Optional – Listen to a discussion about how we can together build ecological communities – CD Session 5 Part I – 8.43 minutes and/or an interview of Jerry Harrall, an eco-architect – 8.10 minutes)

Jerry Harrall is an eco-architect based in Long Sutton. He is involved with a project to develop a barn at St Gilbert of Sempringham Church (near Billingborough) as a visitor centre. The small project plans to utilise new LED lights, amorphous silicon Photovoltaics to produce energy, water collection, and a dry composting toilet. It is hoped this example will build confidence and encourage more churches to undertake environmentally friendly projects.

Questions/Activities to Consider

1. Does the Church have a distinctive role to play in building ecological communities?
2. Reflect on the course and all that has been considered together. Review the actions that have been agreed and recorded on the chart. Are they actually happening? Are there any replies to our letters to be shared? Would it be helpful to display these in the church?
3. Do you feel inspired and empowered to take action for 'the earth in our hands'?
4. What more can we do as individuals and as a Christian community to care for the world God has created and redeemed?

Action point

Would the group like to write a letter to an MP/ local councillor to encourage action on an environmental issue?

Are there any other actions the group would like to undertake?

Pray

Give thanks for all you have shared together during this course and pray for one another, that we might translate our thoughts and words into actions.

At home

How about a good look through your cupboards, see what you don't need and which could be effectively put to better use?

Want to Know More?

Eco-congregations is a national organisation developed by Christian Ecology Link (CEL) and Going for Green, based at the Arthur Rank Centre, Stoneleigh. It supports Christian environmental praxis and provides resources to develop thinking and action. See [www.ecocongregation.org](http://www.ecocongregation.org)