

## **District Eco-Summit Notes-7<sup>th</sup> February 2024**

The Northampton District, held its second Eco-Summit on Zoom. The purpose of these events was to:

- Encourage dialogue between Circuits and Churches of the District on Net-Zero and care for our planet matters.
- For the District to identify ways it can support the Circuits and Churches on the above matter
- To share new developments around resources for care for our creation

A reminder that all the notes from the October 2023 meeting can be found [here](#).

In the meeting on the 7<sup>th</sup> February 2024, the participants shared some memorable progressions they have made since the October meeting. The highlights consist of the following:

- The Oxford Circuit celebrates that nine out of eleven churches have an A-Rocha award of some sort. Wesley Memorial has made progress on LED lighting, amongst other things
- The Milton Keynes Circuit has benefited from recent energy surveys, and Christ the Cornerstone has been able to learn significantly about this. In April, a learning day will occur at Queensway Methodist Church. The Circuit itself has started its work towards a bronze award.
- Bishop Street Methodist Church in the Leicester Trinity Circuit shared its inner-city context. A large building with solar panels and LED lighting that's on its way to becoming a bronze-awarded church.
- Banbury Circuit celebrates the success of the community orchard in its locality, and lighting has been addressed at Marlborough Road. St Francis LEP is also celebrating its bronze award. The story of Hinton's recent development demonstrated the difficulties of heating a building that lacks insulation, even with modern heating methods.
- Northampton Methodist Church has been able to work on LED lighting in certain buildings e.g. Towcester Road. They have also been successful due to their governance as a Circuit being able to obtain a contract from Utlita Aid.
- The Vale of Aylesbury shared how, at Chinnor, some progress has been made through lighting etc. However, where progress has not been made, the focus of calculating carbon and exploring offsetting options is being explored.

### **Other areas mentioned that were not related to specific churches:**

Friends of the Earth groups- <https://groups.friendsoftheearth.uk/> How can local churches connect with their local organizations to maximize impact?

Questions around Heat Pump effectiveness and the ability to assess this.

Consideration of local climate action ecumenical groups: do you have one in your area? If not, do you want to start one?

### **Action for Hope Conversation**

A paper brought for consideration by the Methodist Council in January 2024 entitled 'Action for Hope- funding' can be found [here](#).

Conversation in the meeting was given about this paper and its implications. We acknowledge that this is still at a Council level but recognize that if this were to be agreed by the Conference in June the District, Circuits, and churches would benefit from doing some proactive work.

Any feedback on the paper is encouraged and should be emailed to the District Chair PA-[pa@northamptonmethodistdistrict.org.uk](mailto:pa@northamptonmethodistdistrict.org.uk).

### **The work of the Eco-Summit working stream**

The Mission Team Leader will encourage the gathering of a smaller working stream that will work on updating policy and other key pieces of strategic thinking for the District. More information to be given to those who have expressed an interest. This is set to meet on the 7th March 2024.

If you still have not raised an interest, please contact Matt on [matt.forsyth@northamptonmethodistdistrict.org.uk](mailto:matt.forsyth@northamptonmethodistdistrict.org.uk)

### **Areas of interest for future Summits**

- The work of A-Rocha and the journey of becoming an eco-church-invitation to an expert from A Rocha?
- List known and trusted suppliers and experts who can perform energy audits etc.
- Advice on where to find grant funders.
- Resources that local churches and or Circuits could use

### **Date for the next meeting**

Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2024 7:30pm

Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> October 7:30pm (Note the change in date)