

June 2023

St Mary the Virgin Ullapool Environment Group Newsletter

Green Screen returns!

Many thanks to all those involved in what turned out to be a very successful screening of our first film of the Green Screen season, **Honeyland**. Also many thanks to everyone who came to view the film at the Ferry Terminal, and who took part in the post screening discussions about this deeply moving portrait of the delicate balance of life and traditions, and of how this balance can so easily be upset and destroyed.

The Province Net Zero Action Plan

The consultation for the Scottish Episcopal Church's net zero strategy ended on March 28th 2023, in which stakeholders from across the province were given the opportunity to help shape the future of our church. Having reviewed 115 survey responses to the draft plan along with feedback gathered during the webinars, PEG have significantly revised the Net Zero Action Plan in order to take into consideration the feedback from across the SEC community.

The updated version of the Net Zero Action Plan (2023-2030) has subsequently been included in the papers for General Synod 2023. The Provincial Environment Group will seek approval of the Net Zero Action Plan (2023-2030) at General Synod 2023 (8 to 10 June).

Information on the Net Zero Action Plan (2023-2030) can be found at **www.scotland.anglican.org/who-we-are/organisation/boards-and-committees/the-provincial-environment-group/**

To Mend or Replace?

A reflection by Jeffrey Bilbro

Stewardship involves the humble, often overlooked work of sorting through what has been broken and discarded, imagining how their pieces might fit together, and then fixing what we can. It is tempting to grow impatient with the task of mending and instead simply replace what has worn out. Our technological culture encourages us to see the new as a solution to our problems: throw away what's broken and buy new; bulldoze old buildings for new construction; move away from fractured family or friendships and make new relationships. Our task is to tend and steward what we have been given.

Is there any point to recycling?

A recent newspaper article raised the challenging question of whether there is any point to recycling.

“Reduce, reuse, recycle” is an environmentalist mantra that everyone has been able to get behind because, in the age of overconsumption, humans are producing more waste than ever before. Every year we dump 2bn tonnes of municipal solid waste on to the planet and – according to the World Bank – that number is expected to rise by 70% to 3.4bn tonnes by 2050.

For most of us, the process of recycling ends when we throw the coffee cup or plastic packaging into the relevant bin. Someone comes to collect it and off it goes, leaving our conscience clear. The story does not end there, however: plastic recycling increasingly looks like a futile endeavour. Much of it still ends up in landfill, or in poorer countries where it is melted down into pellets, dumped, or burned.

Before you put your recycling bin in the recycling bin, the general consensus is that the solution is not to stop recycling altogether. While imperfect, it is the best option we have – the alternative is creating more landfill sites or incinerating more waste, which produces more carbon emissions than natural gas.

Ultimately, the only real way to tackle plastic pollution – and to curb the growth of already gigantic levels of waste – is to produce less stuff. Recycle is the last R — the first two, reduce and reuse, are perhaps the key to stop humanity drowning in its own castoffs.

New Broom Eco-friendly Refills.

Here in Ullapool, New Broom offer a refill facility where you can reuse containers to refill with E Cover and Faith in Nature Products, that include washing up liquid, laundry liquid, fabric conditioner toilet cleaner and all purpose cleaners, and much more besides. They will only accept like for like containers so the next time your washing up liquid runs out, don't throw away or recycle the container but take it to the New Broom on Argyle St and have it refilled with an eco-friendly alternative.

One member of our congregation has been told that E Cover laundry liquid destroys your clothes! I had a look into this and I can find nothing online to substantiate this claim, but there is much evidence to the contrary, not only are plant based laundry products better for the planet by reducing the amount of toxic chemicals that pollute our seas, but they are kinder on your clothes and are very effective in what they are supposed to do – to clean clothes. Indeed, the Good Housekeeping Institute judged E Cover concentrated Laundry Detergent to be the best bio laundry detergent on the market.

Produced by: Revd David Higgon St Mary the Virgin, on behalf of our Environmental Group