

Sept. 2024.

**St Mary the Virgin Ullapool Environment Group
Newsletter
September 2024**

Welcome to our Environment Group Newsletter, which aims to help keep us informed on eco activities within the church, the community and further afield.

Song of St Francis of Assisi

Our season of creation ends at the feast of St Francis of Assisi on 4th October. Below is an extract from the Song of Francis:

May you be praised, my Lord, with all your creatures,
especially brother sun,
through whom you lighten the day for us.
He is beautiful and radiant with great splendour.
he signifies you, O Most High.
Be praised, my Lord, for sister moon and the stars:
clear and precious and lovely, they are formed in heaven.
Be praised, my Lord, for sister water,
who is very useful and humble and precious and pure.
Be praised, my Lord, for our sister, mother earth,
who sustains and governs us
and produces diverse fruits
and coloured flowers and grass.
Be praised, my Lord, by all those who forgive for love of you
and who bear weakness and tribulation.
Blessed are those who bear them in peace:
for you, Most High, they will be crowned.

Green Screen

Hopefully, our next Green Screen screening will be in partnership with Ullapool Community Trust. The film we hope to show is *X-Trillion* about ocean plastics: <https://www.xtrillionfilm.com/>. Details of the date of the screening will be in the Church Newsletter and the Ullapool News.

Local eco issues and activities we can support:



Details can be found at <https://www.keepsotlandbeautiful.org/highland-community-waste-partnership/share-repair/highland-repair-directory/>

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Eco Congregation Bronze Award

Our application for an Eco Congregation Bronze award has been completed and is currently being assessed by Eco Congregation. We hope to have some good news to announce in the near future.

Scottish Episcopal Church Net Zero Team

Daniel Prince, the lead for the SEC's Net Zero Team for Moray, Ross and Caithness will be visiting the church in October to meet with us to discuss how we can improve the energy efficiency of our church building in Ullapool. Following the meeting, we will report to the Vestry to discuss his findings and recommendations, and hopefully to update our Environment Action Plan

30 years of Fairtrade making its mark: Together we can build a better future

We have just celebrated the 30th anniversary of the FAIRTRADE Mark in the UK, and the Fairtrade Foundation. It is three decades since Fairtrade-certified products first appeared on the supermarket shelves across the nation. There are now almost 5,000 Fairtrade products in the UK alone, and the number is growing all the time. Globally, millions of farmers and workers in 70 countries are part of 1,930 Fairtrade certified producer organisations, benefitting from stable prices, community facilities such as education, healthcare and clean water which Fairtrade has funded, access to training and a platform for their voices to be heard. Consumers have thrown their weight behind Fairtrade's ongoing campaign to create a world in which trade is based on fairness, so that farmers and workers who produce our favourite foods are fairly paid. Campaigners and activists are at the heart of the Fairtrade movement in the UK, and we thank the Ullapool Fairtrade Group for their hard work in campaigning and promoting Fair Trade in our community.

Links to Christian Environmental Organisations

Eco congregation Scotland <https://www.ecocongregationscotland.org/>

Churches Together in Britain and Ireland environment <https://ctbi.org.uk/environment-churchesand-christian-organisations/>

Operation Noah <http://operationnoah.org/>

Green Christian www.greenchristian.org.uk/

Christian Aid <https://www.christianaid.org.uk/>

Tearfund <https://www.tearfund.org/>

Climate Change Pray and Fast for the Climate www.prayandfastfortheclimate.org.uk/

Scottish Episcopal Environment Group www.scotland.anglican.org/who-we-are/organisation/boards-and-committees/the-provincial-environment-group/

Highland Community Waste partnership Repair Directory

[://www.keepsotlandbeautiful.org/highland-community-waste-partnership/share-repair/highland-repair-directory](http://www.keepsotlandbeautiful.org/highland-community-waste-partnership/share-repair/highland-repair-directory)

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

If you would like to include something in the next newsletter, the deadline is 30 November 2024.