

April 2025

St Mary the Virgin Ullapool Environment Group Newsletter April 2025

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

Let's begin with a Prayer –

Each April 22 we celebrate Earth Day. It is a day to thank God for the beauty of creation, to commit to loving and caring for it, to be aware of our carelessness and our wastefulness, and to commit to the changes that need to be made.

Holy God, earth and air and water are your creation, and every living thing belongs to you: have mercy on us as climate change confronts us. Give us the will and the courage to simplify the way we live, to reduce the energy we use, to share the resources you provide, and to bear the cost of change. Forgive our past mistakes and send us your Spirit, with wisdom in present controversies and vision for the future to which you call us in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(The Anglican Church of Australia).

Environment Group Action Plan 2025

The vestry agreed to the environment group action plan for 2025. This can be found on the notice board near the back door of the church. Do take a minute to read our plans for this year. Below are some of the activities we have planned for 2025.

Green Screen

The first screening of 2025 will be on .pm Thursday 1st May at the Ferry Terminal when we will be showing an excellent, uplifting and informative film -**Six Inches of Soil**. This is about farmers here in the UK who are doing something about how to care for nature and the environment through the way we farm. Farmland covers 70% of the UK, and the way we farm the land is not only important to us as a source of food, but it is important for wildlife and our environment. The film looks at ways that land can be farmed that produces food that is sustainable but also regenerates the land and protects our environment and wildlife

There are further film dates planned for Green Screen: 5th June 2nd October (to coincide with Fairtrade fortnight) and 20th November.

Church Study Day - Peace with Creation

The Eco Congregation Chaplain for Scotland, David Coleman has agreed to lead a study Day on Saturday 30 August 2025, the theme of the study day is Peace with Creation, which will also be the theme of our Season of Creation 2025. We are planning to hold the study day at the MacPhail Centre, and will be encouraging other churches across the Highlands to join us.

Local eco issues and activities we can support:

The Starling Café

The Starling Café meets at the Macphail Centre, Ullapool, and provides an opportunity to explore topics of community, hope, belonging, diversity, resilience and resistance.

The next session will be Tue 6th May 2025 6:00 PM - 8:00 with Mairi MacFadyen speaking on Gaelic culture

The café is open to everyone but places are limited, so please book in advance. If you don't want to use this online process, you can contact Joanna at joanna.wright@highlifehighland.com to book a place.

April 2025

Ullapool Unpacked - Circular Meat Packaging Project

The Circular Meat Packaging Project is being run as a collaboration between The Green Bowl “Elphin” and Ullapool Unpacked CIC. The goal of the project is to find a sustainable solution for the sale of local meat in our community, in reusable and returnable packaging. Membership is open to those living locally and costs £10 to join. The packed meat is bought through the Green Bowl online shop or in person at the Ullapool Unpacked Community Refill Shop. The Project cuts out the need for single use plastic packaging and helps support and promote local meat consumption.

If you want to know more just pop in to see Evie Baker, at Ullapool Unpacked on Argyle St, next to the West Highland Deli .

Green Bowl

Green Bowl are a group of local food producers who sell their wares locally through the internet.

Details can be found on: <https://openfoodnetwork.org.uk/the-green-bowl/shop#/producers>

The Green Bowl's producers are:

- MacMoynes variety bread
- The Red Steading
- Sunshine Bunches
- Ali's allotment and vegan produce
- Rosie's HerbsnVeg
- Mrs Fiona Johnstone
- Cùl Mòr Gardens
- Ullapool Seed Savers
- Elphin Tearooms
- Ullapool Unpacked CIC
- Middleton Croft
- Elphin Larder
- Shed Veg

You can order online for delivery between Elphin and Leckmelm and orders are open from Saturday 8am until Sunday, 8pm, with deliveries on Tuesday between 10:30am and 1pm, with pickups also on Tuesdays between 3pm and 6pm from the Elphin Tearooms (or contact us to pick up outside those times). Green Bowls next delivery date is:

15th April (orders open 5th April)

22nd April (orders open 19th April)

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)

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