

## Eco church group discussions

### Group 1: Matched funding

Your church has received an unexpected donation of £500. In the right circumstances, the Diocesan Green Grant programme will match fund this amount.

The Green Grant programme covers:

- Energy & resource use
- Churchyard
- Faith and outreach projects
- Practical lifestyle actions

You are keen to spend your donation and will draw up suggestions for the PCC to consider.

Which of the following elements of the Eco Church award scheme would you suggest and why?

- Insulation for ceilings/walls in the church/hall/office/vicarage
- Double-glazing in the church/hall/office/vicarage
- LED light bulbs
- Interpretation boards for the wildlife area of the churchyard
- Thermal blinds and curtains in the Church Hall
- Rainwater butt and fittings
- Cycle rack, e.g. 16 place double-sided rack £450
- Planters/window boxes
- (or anything you can think of)

### Group 2: Disposables

Consultation is underway this autumn on legislation to ban the use of plastic knives and forks, plastic plates, and polystyrene cups. Cotton buds, plastic straws and stirrers were banned from October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020, together with plastic beads in rinse-off personal hygiene products.

Each person in the UK on average uses 18 single-use plastic plates and 37 single-use plastic items of cutlery every year. A deposit scheme for plastic bottles is being considered as part of the Environment Bill currently going through parliament.

Thinking of paper cups and paper plates, which of the following describes your current situation?

- Never use disposables     Occasionally use disposables     Biodegradable  
 Recyclable     Non-biodegradables     Need to find out

What action would you recommend that the PCC should take regarding:

- a) parish events and activities
- b) activities of outside group using church facilities, e.g. children's parties.

**Group 3: No cost actions**

The following are included in the Eco church Buildings and Land sections. Which of these things could be managed at no cost to your parish?

Hippos in the toilet cistern (hippos are water-saving devices saving 3 litres of water every time a toilet is flushed. An average toilet uses 9 litres per flush, and 1.64kg of carbon would be saved each year by fitting a hippo).

Survey of cleaning products

Recycling facilities

Bug hotel/Bird nest box/Bat box

Composting facilities

Bird feeding station

Wildlife surveys

Encouraging members of the local community to use church land for recreation/contemplation.

How would you find your volunteers?