

Sunday 28th October 2007
Faith Groups

Saving the planet message spreading through the faith communities of Cornwall

The one thing that all the faith communities of Cornwall will agree on is that they see themselves as 'guardians of the planet' and it is becoming more and more obvious throughout all religions that it is their responsibility to make changes in lifestyles and decisions to help minimise harmful impacts on the planet.

The Cornwall Faith Forum of Cornwall has members of all the faith groups of Cornwall that held a meeting at New County Hall last week to share texts and ideas to help fellow community members to celebrate and respect creation through worship and prayer lives.

The faith community will take action on Sunday 28th October to encourage their congregations to save energy by:

1. Integrating the importance of saving the planet and energy into their sermons and discussions.
2. Organise a car share the week before to save energy on transport
3. Wear warm clothes and turn off or down the thermostat
4. Look around, do you need all the lights on?

One faith group will also receive a light bulb for every member of their congregation to take home, which is being donated by local insulation group Miller Pattison.

One faith group that is particularly active is the Cathedral of Truro. Over the last year the Cathedral has:

- Hosted a series of 4 lent lectures earlier in the year focusing on the issues of climate change, with speakers from different area of expertise to help broaden the understanding of the challenges facing parishioners as guardians of the planet. A free DVD was produced for people that could not make it to the sermons and to reduce road miles.
- This summer the 'carbon footprint' of Truro Cathedral has been audited by The Carbon Trust. The findings are with the Chapter (governing body of the cathedral) to devise a strategy to implement its findings
- Is a supporting member of Transition Truro
- The Cathedral put together a joint exhibition with Vitreous Gallery to highlight climate change
- On the 13th February Professor Ernst Conradie from South Africa will give his perspective on integrating climate change and sustainability into worship

The Revd Canon Philip Lambert of Truro Cathedral said, *“In the Christian faith we understand that all creatures, everything was created by God and that it is good and that he loves it. Therefore we have a responsibility for caring for it for God's sake! St. Francis of Assisi exemplified this in the west and St. Maximus the Confessor in the Eastern church, also saints like St. Isaac the Syrian was concerned about all creatures and endeavoured to help us see the special life God gives in the humblest of insects. In the celtic Christian tradition which particularly inspired Cornish Christianity there was also this understanding of God's love for creation and also one of the ways through which God revels himself. In our scriptures we share with Moslems and Jews the story of Noah which shows God's concern for all the creation in rescuing it.”*

-ENDS

Notes to editors

- Picture: Philip Lambert with the Carbon Trust Advisor
- Interviews: **The Revd Canon Philip Lambert** will be at the launch of Energy Saving and will be available from 10:15 at the Knowledge Spa on Monday 22nd October. Alternatively he can be contacted through Colin Reed - Press Officer for Truro Cathedral - Colin@trurocathedral.org.uk - 01872 245007
- For more information on the Cornwall Faith Forum and their work on Climate Change, please contact Andrew Yates, Social Responsibility Officer, Tel: (01872) 274351 e-mail sro@truro.anglican.org
- The faith group that will be distributing energy saving light bulbs and integrating energy saving into their sermon on Sunday 28th October will know on Friday 19th October. For details please contact Jasmine Reilly on 01209 614 974 or 07811 191696 or email: jasmine@csep.co.uk