

Eco-Congregation

Duffus, Spynie & Hopeman Church are the holders of an Eco-Congregation Silver Award.

We are part of the Moray "Creation Care" network of churches, through Eco-Congregation Scotland. This connects us into many local, national and online activities – see www.ecocongregationscotland.org for ideas, events and information.

When receiving our silver award (in early 2018) we were particularly commended for:

- the number of people on the Eco group, drawn from all sectors of the congregation
- thoughtful and thought-provoking articles on environmental issues and eco-theology in the church magazine
- efforts made to reduce energy use across all church buildings and plans for the future
- the links made to local schools and uniformed organisations
- support for the local network and Eco-Congregation Scotland nationally

But this award is just a marker within a bigger long-term commitment to care for God's creation, so there were also recommendations, and lots more work to do. So we have now agreed an 10-point **Eco Action Plan** for the congregation. Our priority actions are:

- Continue to raise awareness of and encourage action on eco-issues/activities amongst the congregation and parish. Get over the message it is not just the action of the "church" that is important but our individual home lives, offering practical choices and actions that can make a difference. Lead by example and share stories of good practice.
- Incorporation of "eco" issues/topics wherever possible in all Church activities/groups
- Based on this action plan, and good practice from other Eco-congregations, develop an "Eco policy" for the congregation and for use of the church buildings. Ensure relevant sections are made known to external users of church property. This should include an ethical purchasing policy, which will maintain Fair Trade Church certification, and embed care for creation in other purchases including our energy supply

To get involved in Duffus, Spynie & Hopeman Eco-congregation work, please contact Rev Jenny, at jadams@churchofscotland.org.uk



Duffus, Spynie & Hopeman Church is one of over 500 eco-congregations in Scotland. We are working as a congregation to care for creation across 3 areas:

- **Spiritual living: Making the link between environmental issues and the Christian faith**

Care for creation is regularly reflected in our worship and prayer together, whether marking Creation Time, celebrating Harvest Thanksgiving, in preaching and singing. We try and keep the whole congregation informed on environmental issues through regular articles in the church magazine.

- **Practical living: Taking practical action in the church and in the home to reduce our environmental impact**

Practical steps to reduce energy use and waste are encouraged by all individual members and families, as well as by the congregation. Energy efficiency is an important consideration in current usage and future planning for our buildings. Our church and manse grounds are maintained with wildlife in mind.

- **Global living: Influencing attitudes and take action in the local or global community on issues like climate change**

Our engagement with Christian Aid includes taking campaign actions in relation to climate change, and we are working to become a Fairtrade church, using and encouraging Fairtrade products whenever possible. The church magazine also highlights more local environmental actions that are possible. We have connections to the Eco-school work at Hopeman Primary School, and the Duffus Rainbows help make the Duffus Church garden beautiful and wildlife-friendly.

We were awarded our first Eco-Congregation award at the end of 2014.

Eco-Congregation Scotland is a movement of Scottish church congregations, of all denominations and none, committed to addressing environmental issues through their life and mission.

The Vision: A Scotland that cares for God's creation, now and forever.

The Values:

- We care passionately for God's creation
- We are a faith based movement
- We are rooted in local groups of Christians
- We work co-operatively with each other and with others who care about the environment
- We encourage transformational change at individual, community and national levels

The Mission:

- In prayer, worship and conversation we discover what it means to care for God's creation
- We put that care into action individually, locally, nationally and globally, desiring to live justly in a transformed world
- We commit ourselves to campaigning on urgent threats to the web of life in our vulnerable world

For more information on Eco-Congregation Scotland, go to <http://www.ecocongregationscotland.org/>

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