

St Ursula's Eco-Group – Changing Outlooks

Notes from Wednesday 17 August 2022

Present: *Helen Marshall, Hector Davie, Art Funkhouser, Louise Rapaud, Rosalind Richards*

This was a general discussion, to meet Louise and to hear her thoughts on a possible intergenerational response to climate change, about which she would be addressing the whole church on 18 September.

Helen led us in an opening prayer. Louise introduced the theme of an apology given by the older generation to their children and grandchildren. The object was not to allocate blame, but to acknowledge the harm that had been done to present and future generations through excessive and unwise consumption. We noted that this theme was particularly appropriate to St Ursula's, as a church serving a largely expatriate community, because expatriates tended to have a more indulgent lifestyle than the indigenous population.

The aim was for the apology to be in a family context, with personal engagement between the participants. Young people, especially teenagers, could express their ideas very lucidly and cogently. We discussed the possibility of a group of students from the International School addressing us about their concerns, but preferred the family as a forum. It was noted that not all young people thought alike, and some enjoyed a more prodigal and less considerate lifestyle than their elders.

It was felt that the project could provoke thought and contribute to changing lifestyles. The church was also a family, and one aim would be to introduce new ideas and attitudes.

We should arrange an event to engage young members – the eco-garden would be a good focus for this.

We had agreed to have a non-meat catering option at all church events, where possible. We should extend this and remove the meat options where appropriate. It was suggested that we have a series of talks introducing new ideas in vegetarian cookery to capture people's imaginations and to provide information about healthy nutrition.

We needed more information on recycling – one specific example was PET, where only drinks bottles were recycled in most cantons. Rosalind undertook to take a small number of trays made of rigid PET back with her to the Canton of Fribourg, which processes these separately, but there is a general lack of information about such services as Berne's Ökoinfomobil.

The possibility was raised of arranging a talk on the role played by the weather in influencing feelings.

Notes by
Hector Davie
19 August 2022