

## Diocesan Environment Group Newsletter

September 2022

Over the summer we have all seen evidence of environmental chaos right here on our doorsteps in Edinburgh. As I tried to keep my young children cool during the heatwaves of July, it was sobering to think of those across the world struggling with the life-and-death realities of increasing temperatures. As we experienced the stench of rubbish overflowing from bins – and the stickiness of the streets beneath our feet – during August, it was concerning to think of the immense quantity of litter we produce within a week. As thunderstorms and downpours caused our local school playground to flood with sewage this September, it was disgusting to think of people who live day-to-day in unsanitary conditions. We may find ourselves feeling hopeful about a new prime minister, saddened by the loss of our faithful, servant-hearted Queen, and perplexed about the future of our planet.

**“When life seems hard, the courageous do not lie down and accept defeat; instead, they are all the more determined to struggle for a better future.”** Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II – *Christmas broadcast, 2008.*

As a diocese we are keen to continue the conversations we started at the Big Walk to Net Zero event in May, and to match our talk with action. We are partnering with [Green Christian](#) to host an event on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> October, with a focus on learning more about living sustainably and changing our attitudes towards consumerism. There will also be opportunities to take practical action and get involved in creative projects within the grounds of the cathedral. Please do come along, share details with your congregations, and invite others along.

**"It's worth remembering that it is often the small steps, not the giant leaps, that bring about the most lasting change."** Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II – *Christmas broadcast, 2019.*

We would love to hear any stories of how your church has been thinking small and big:

1. Have you made a start with small easy changes?
2. Have you made a strategic plan for future changes?

Making small changes can help kick-start movement in the right direction, growing hope and further action. So be encouraged to make a start, no matter how small. Thinking big is also vital as we consider the future of our churches and communities. If our buildings are to be sustainable in the future, we must grasp any opportunities we can to partner with our wider communities and open up the spaces we have to serve and be served by local groups.

Please do engage with the [Environment](#) page on the diocesan website, use the [Diocesan Online Support Forum](#) for any questions or suggestions and be inspired by [stories](#) from other churches.