

The 2009 Eco year started with a sustainability audit training day 31st January 2009. This was run by the Bay Energy Saving Partnership and co-ordinated through Faiths4Change. 11 people attended the morning session which focussed on home energy savings. The afternoon was a walk-round audit of the community and worship centres. As a result of this a list of items to attend to was compiled. Quotes were obtained from various companies to seek improvements to the Central heating system and insulation. A grant was sought from B&Q for some smaller works and £250 was awarded with a further grant being received from Faiths4Change. Several people have been involved in expediting these small works and our thanks go particularly to Jeff Whittle, Roy Manchester and the late John Nicholas.

Weekly meter readings are taken to check that improvements are having the desired effect.

In March over 70 oak saplings were planted at three sites – one being Donisthorpe wood, part of the National Forest in Leicestershire and at two sites in Lancashire (Greendale Wood, Grindleton and Cuerden Valley Park).

Several people joined with members of another church in the scattering of bluebell seeds in Cuerden Valley Park on 28th June 2009.

At the end of 2008 The Church funded study books 'Paint Your Church Green'. Some of the statistics in this publication were included in the Lent 2009 series themed on some of the chapters in this book.

Linked with the Lent 09 focus the congregation were encouraged to participate in 'Love Life – Live Lent' the Tearfund 'Carbonfast' and Cafod's Live Simply initiatives. The Inconvenient Truth was shown during the Lent focus and Mike Chesterton from Tearfund spoke at Celebration Praise during Lent.

Holiday Bible Club 2009 (HBC 09) was on the theme of Wastewatchers, when all the children learnt about caring for the earth and leaders also learnt about environmental issues as they prepared and led the sessions. Children who were not members of the Church attended, and their parents often stayed for the morning worship. One parent commented how inspired she was with the subject material. The elder children participated in a balsam bash and a litter pick in local parks. The Council



LEYLAND METHODIST CHURCH

EMBRACING THE CARE OF GOD'S CREATION

Waste Recycling Officer ran sessions on recycling and organised waste recycling relay races. Half of the collection was donated to A Rocha, a Christian organisation caring for God's world - <http://www.arocha.org/gb-en/index.html>

30 people signed the Operation Noah Ark campaign petition which called on the British Government to lead negotiations for a cut in global power sector emissions of at least one third by 2020. This petition was handed to Geraldine Smith, MP on 3rd October 2009 at an event organised by Morecambe URC.

The World Church at the end of November included an environmental flavour when representatives from A Rocha, the Energy Savings Trust and the Lancashire Wildlife Trust organised information stalls to offer their expertise to interested people. A poster competition was co-ordinated with the Methodist schools and Lever House primary schools. Over 70 entries were received which were judged by the Mayor and Mayoress of South Ribble. Congratulations to the winners: Georgia Veitch, Piper Francis, Hollie Dalton, Nicole Baron, Jessica Bell and Emile Colebourne. The Church extended its thanks to Martin Mere, Faiths4change and the Lancashire Wildlife Trust for donating prizes for the competition.

On the afternoon of the World Church bonanza the climate change film 'The Age of Stupid' was shown. Those who watched the film said how good it was. The DVD is available for anyone who is interested.