

BECKENHAM METHODIST CHURCH (BMC)

To all users of the premises at Bromley Road, Beckenham

Climate change, bio-diversity loss and pollution are concerns of all of us nowadays. These are worldwide issues and so global solutions are needed. But we can do our bit locally. At BMC the church council has agreed that we take up the eco saving challenges set by the A Rocha Church Award scheme. And we are members of the Bromley Eco Church Network.

If you are already doing anything to reduce the carbon footprint of your group, this is great. Please can you let us know what you are doing so we can record this as part of the scheme. Please also let us know any suggestions as to what we could all be doing do to improve.

The most practical way we can help is by cutting our use of the earth's resources and in particular our use of energy – which make both eco and financial sense. The church council has been doing its bit in the past few years particularly with the new atrium which is designed to modern standards. Much of the premises is double glazed, low energy lights have been fitted where practical and the insulation has been checked. The 23 year old boiler has recently been replaced with two small A rated units. And we are considering investing in PV solar units on one of the south facing roofs.

With that background and eco aims in mind, we offer the following suggestions to all user of our church complex, whether church members or attending activities on our premises.

- a) Thermostats. There is heating throughout and it is set to come on and off at the start and end times of meetings. If you do not need the heating to be as high as it is set or occasionally, especially in the depths of winter, it may not be enough. We want all our users to feel comfortable so please feel free to adjust the thermostat but please turn it back to the original setting when you leave. You could consider advising extra clothes in cold spells. Please let us know if a different temperature needs to be set for your group on a longer term basis.
- b) Turn off lights when you finish. Generally the lights are low energy ones but it all helps if you could turn off lights that are not needed.
- c) Disposable crockery & cutlery. We have a policy of not using one-off disposable crockery and cutlery such polystyrene hot drink mugs and plastic plates. There is adequate "real" crockery and cutlery in all the kitchens.
- d) Travel. BMC premises in Bromley Road are well served by public transport (train, tram and bus) and so we would encourage all users to consider walking, cycling or public transport where practical. Bike racks are available near the new front door.
- e) Recycling. Domestic recycling arrangements in Bromley are quite good whereas for the church, which is classified as a business, our current contract with Biffa does not include recycling streams. We need to look into the Biffa contract but in the meanwhile we would encourage all users to take recyclable rubbish, such as paper, plastic or metal, to their home bins. We are also planning to have recycling points around the BMC premises.

If you have any queries about the above and especially if you have any thoughts to add please contact the church office or send an email to BMCEcogroup@gmail.com