



## Net Zero Carbon Emission and what our Methodist church should do.

By Grace Bishop, age 10.

Net zero carbon emission is when we do not emit any carbon that we don't replace by doing things such as planting flowers and trees that absorb carbon. The process of replacing this carbon is called carbon offsetting.

The Methodist Church is working on an Action for Hope plan to make the whole church net zero by 2030. There are three sections: wisdom, assets and lifestyles.

I went to a meeting of all the Green Agents of Change where we were invited to put our ideas into the plan for the whole church. Lynne Norman, the Children, Families, and Youth Development Officer, was there and also Ella Sibley-Ryan, who is one of the people who are making the plans for being net zero. Ella told us the ideas that are already in the plan like making sure no Methodist savings go into banks that support fossil fuels projects. The Methodist Church has also promised that all travel, gas and electricity directly used by the church will be net zero by 2030.

At the meeting, we discussed ways to make our church and actual lifestyles more eco friendly and came up with a few ideas such as vegetable-based ink for printing church newsletters and posters etc and using the Google alternative, Ecosia. Another idea that was shared was all ministers getting to church on e-bikes or using public transport. (Sorry, Mum!) Everyone agreed that we should tell MPs how important this is.

Here are some of the ideas we came up with:

## Have we missed? What other ideas do you have?

(I know that we have been talking about the alternative for google) But just as a reflection, on google, you can see your footprint and how much water, food, clothes, electricity etc. that you use

We should educate those in Sunday school groups about Climate Change. It technically links back into religion a lot as if we care for God's world we should care for it if it's getting destroyed and need to know how to make

Make an eco club at school and church

recycling collection point at church for those who cannot get to the amenity site

Need to use vegetable based ink

on an app called Ecosia (alternative for google) they plant a tree for every 15 searches. Make google do the same.

We use lots of paper at sunday school and we waste a lot. We need to use it as scrap paper or

Try to fly very little

Having bee gardens outside churches

I have a dream that we could turn clothing factories into vast places with rows and rows of sewing machines, where people are taught to use make, repair and upcycle their existing clothes. Could churches offer space

Recycle instead of waste - bit obvious but (my) church seriously needs to do it more

Use the LOAF principles.

On Earth Day, get school to do a 'green week'. Being more eco friendly at school. Then we can build on that and do it every day.

eat less meat

have fair trade things

I would like to see the MC doing a "Doughnut Analysis" of itself. (cf Doughnut Economics)

we have a repair cafe

live more simply - lot of resources wasted in non-recycled tech phones etc

using loose tea leaves at church instead of tea bags

Try and turn our churches into an ecochurch if it hasn't been already and use eco-related resources

for displays and posters etc. using recycled materials

Plant more trees everywhere .

Tell MPs and get them to tell the government

Could local churches develop their own circular economies based on sharing and passing on? Also, how can churches harness the resources of the 'commons'?

Shared libraries

As Salisbury Methodist church, we should do things to support and use the plans for this important action that will be taken soon. So, we should try to become a totally eco-friendly church harder, as hard as we can. I thought that we could make our insulation greener by using mushrooms (sounds crazy but it's true!) or/and using heat pumps to make our actual heating greener. We could use SMC as a swap shop (like the toy swap, in November 2021) to swap goods and save people buying new things. The CHYPS (Children and Young People on Sundays) could organise a few planting sessions and contact our local MP, John Glen, to help with persuading our government. We could also learn to upcycle rubbish and mend clothes and other broken things. In our church garden we could make bee hotels and bug houses (making bug houses is one of my favourite breaktime pastimes as well as being eco-friendly) and birdboxes to house wildlife. I, myself, am going to try to set up a baked goods stall (more info coming soon!) to fundraise for our planet.