

Eco Survey – Market Harborough Methodist Circuit 2018

Background and objectives: The Circuit is trying to create a snapshot of how the people in our churches are responding to the challenges of living responsibly in God's world.

People who attend the Churches in the Circuit were invited to complete a survey which was voluntary and anonymous. Since not all questions were applicable to every household, respondents were asked to answer just those that apply to them.

45 completed questionnaires were returned for analysis. Although this does not provide statistically significant outcomes, it does afford a robust indication of current sentiment and behaviour as well as self-perceived behavioural shifts.

In response to a growing concern about environmental matters:

1. Have you included the natural world in prayer?

Always	7
Sometimes	29
Seldom	7
Never	2

Of the 45 respondents, 36 (four in five) say that they always- or sometimes- include the natural world in their prayers.

People have included the natural world in their prayers in the following ways:

- In your private thanks and praise to God 31
- In your concerns and petitions to God 22
- In leading prayers in groups or in Church Worship 7

2. Have you changed anything about the way you heat or light your home?

Yes	34
No	7
n/a	0
No response	4

Of the 41 who responded to this question, 34 (more than four in five) say that they have changed something about the way they heat or light their home.

Change in ways of heating and lighting homes has been achieved in the following ways:

- Made more of an effort to turn off lights when they are not needed 25
- Switched off stand-by switches on your TV, computer etc 24
- Turned the regular temperature of your central heating down. 20
- Changed some or all of your light sources to long lasting bulbs or LED 16
- Changed your energy supplier to a more eco-friendly source 9
- Installed solar panels 3

3. Have you changed the way you use domestic appliances?

Yes	20
No	15
n/a	1
No response	9

Of the 35 who responded to this question, 20* (more than half) say that they have changed the way in which they used their domestic appliances.

**Clearly, given the responses to the supplementary questions (below), more than 20 have changed their behaviour!*

Change in domestic appliance use has been achieved in the following ways:

- Only filled the kettle with enough water for immediate use... .. 34
- Made sure that the washing machine/dishwasher is full before turning on. 30
- Used a shower more – rather than using the bath 26

4. Have you taken part in any Eco Campaigns?

Yes	10
No	28
n/a	0
No response	7

Ten of the 38 (around a quarter) who responded to this question say they have taken part in an Eco Campaign.

Please tick the box if you have...

- Been to an event that promoted eco issues locally or nationally 10
- Signed a petition online or on social media about eco issues 5
- Written to a company or our MP about eco issues 3

5. Have you reduced the amount of paper that you use?

Yes	31
No	7
n/a	2
No response	5

Of the 38 who responded to this question, 31* (around four in five) say that they have reduced the amount of paper they use.

**Again, the responses to the supplementary questions (below), suggest that at least 35 have, in fact, changed their behaviour!*

Reduction of paper use has been achieved in the following ways:

- Re-used paper by using old envelopes or the back of printed sheets to write notes or lists 35
- Printed or written on both sides of the paper 29
- Used on-line storage or hand-held devices such as smart phones or tablets to store information 13

6. Have you reduced the amount of plastic that you used?

Yes	36
No	4
n/a	1
No response	4

Of the 40 who responded to this question, 36* (nine in ten) say that they have reduced the amount of plastic they use.

**Again, the responses to the supplementary questions (below), suggest that at least 38 have*

Reducing plastic use has been achieved in the following ways:

- Regularly used a multi-use shopping bag 38
- Chosen 'loose' vegetables/ fruit over plastic or netted items 31
- Re-used plastic containers in which food is packaged 25
- Used a multi-use coffee cup or water bottle 23

7. Have you changed the way you grow things – on a window sill, in a garden or in pots or on an allotment?

Yes	16
No	12
n/a	7
No response	10

Of the 28 who responded to this question, 16* (more than half) say that they have changed the way they have grown things.

**The responses to the supplementary questions (below), suggest that at least 23 may have changed their behaviour*

Change has been achieved in the following ways:

- Saved rain water or grey water for irrigation of plants 23
- Grown your own fruit, vegetables or herbs 17
- Bought bee-friendly seeds or plants... .. 13
- Used non-chemical means of pest control 14
- Used eco- friendly fertilisers 6
- and though you have not 'grown' birds, have you fed them? 27

8. Have you changed your eating habits?

Yes	22
No	11
No response	12

Of the 33 who responded to this question, 22* (two-thirds) say that they have changed their eating habits

**The responses to the supplementary questions (below), suggest that at least 26 may have changed their behaviour*

Change in eating habit has been achieved in the following ways:

- By eating less red meat 26
- By choosing to buy fruit and vegetables that have 'travelled' a smaller distance to reach the shop 23
- By choosing more Fair Trade items grown abroad 23
- By having more vegetarian meals 23

9. Have you changed any cleaning products?

Yes	18
No	13
No response	14

Of the 31 who responded to this question, 18 (almost three in five) say that they have changed their use of cleaning products

Change in use of cleaning products has been achieved in the following ways:

- Used Eco-friendly washing up liquid or detergent 16
- Bought re-cycled paper toilet rolls 14
- Washed windows with only water 9
- Used lemon juice, vinegar etc instead of commercial cleaning products ... 8

Overall conclusions

Recognising the relatively small sample size (and acknowledging the mis-completions) it is gratifying to see that many of those who attend the Churches in the Circuit are clearly trying to respond to the challenges of living responsibly in God's world.

Most notably, people have made changes to the way in which they heat and light their homes as well as reducing their use of paper and plastics. Although a more modest one in four say that they have attended a campaign event, were this proportion replicated across the whole of the Market Harborough population, the largest venue in town would need to be booked for several evenings!