



25th June 2024

Eco-Congregation Silver Award

Dear Margaret,

Many thanks to you and all involved at Buchlyvie and Gartmore Parish Churches for your application for an Eco-Congregation Scotland Award. I am delighted to tell you officially that the assessors have recommended that you should receive an Eco-Congregation Scotland Silver Award.

The assessors particularly commended the congregation for the following:

- *Their input into environmental initiatives exceeds many other larger congregations. Here is a group that leads from the front and involves all within their community - be it the Community Council, the local primary schools or the local horticultural society.*
- *Both congregations are very much part of their communities and they have done a huge amount to involve local groups and individuals in their creation care work. Their leadership of and participation in the Planet Friendly Buchlyvie was an excellent example of working in and through the community.*
- *Communications within and outside the churches are excellent and make use of a wide range of opportunities, which ensures the creation care message reaches far and wide.*
- *The Faith Garden at Gartmore shows what can be achieved by working together with the Council, Community Council, and the Church. It provides a welcome but semi secret place behind the church where the beauty of creation can be pondered upon while looking beyond towards the Trossachs. The care and attention to detail of the church building and surrounding graves enhanced the village.*
- *The Dotty survey was very informative and that showed the inherent interests within the community.*

The assessors made the following recommendations for ways in which you could continue to develop your work in the future. We hope that these will be useful to you as you continue to develop your creation care work.

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- 1) *Look at moving forward to applying for a Gold Award – you have the enthusiasm, expertise and team to do it.*
- 2) *Enhance the Action Plan with longer term aims and make sure timescales are included for all projects.*
- 3) *Consider adopting an Environmental Policy for the church, against which all decisions for the congregations can be measured. This is to ensure creation care is embedded long term.*
- 4) *Consider the carbon footprint of each church building and table these when applying for a Gold Award.*
- 5) *Work on costings to upgrade the sanctuary at Buchlyvie including the heating systems. Explore the potential of a multiuse of the sanctuary. By doing so the case can be proved for its retention or not. Table this, if applicable, when applying for Gold*
- 6) *Consider if the provision of leaf vegetables /herbs in large half barrels for a pick your own /Incredible edible concept is feasible. Or increase the range of pollinator friendly flowers - perhaps by sowing more Scottish native wildflowers.*

We hope you enjoy celebrating your achievement and our congratulations to you and the congregation on achieving this well-deserved Award.

Award Plaques

Our plaques are made from recycled wood by a charitable organisation in Edinburgh. The cost to Eco-Congregation Scotland is around £60, we welcome donations to cover this cost: <https://www.ecocongregationscotland.org/donate/>

As your congregation already has the wooden plaque, there is the option of just sending out a replacement Silver metal plate to replace the Bronze.

Please let us know which option you would prefer, and I will arrange for it to be sent out.

Yours sincerely,

Sarah Conway

Administrative Coordinator

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Eco-Congregation Scotland