

couple of drafts out for discussion, and are still refining exactly what it is we want to say. Once we have a final statement, we'll begin the process of collecting signatures.

A more effective Board

As well as new groups fitted to our strategy outlined above, the final aspiration which we have sought to fulfil this year is to develop "an enhanced leadership role for our Trustees", replacing the Steering Committee which was wound down last year.

This move has enabled us to develop the kinds of policies which charities are now expected to have, particularly so that we can be responsible employers. We are indebted to Simon Court and Ashley Ralston for their work in drafting policies.

Finances

Green Christian's income held steady for 2017, including a second donation of £10,000 from the Passionists. Expenditure has increased by approximately £5,000 over 2016 levels, resulting in a small deficit for the year. One component of the increased costs was additional staff hours for work on the Joy in Enough project.

There is still a healthy balance of £44,797 in the bank at the end of 2017, including £9,500 remaining of the legacy received in 2012 and being applied to specific projects.

Join Green Christian

Send £30 standard (low income £12), £40 joint/family/corporate, or a donation for church membership (recommended amount £40) to: Green Christian membership secretary, Flat 1, 31 St James' Terrace, Buxton, Derbyshire SK17 6HS.

Cheques payable to Green Christian



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Taking the road together

Since 2016 Green Christian's Trustees have been refocusing on new ways to make an impact as a movement.

We have identified four areas of focus, and established a group responsible for each. But this no mere bureaucratic reorganisation: the changes are already bearing fruit, as we hope our report will show.

Formation

The first commitment in last year's reforms was to establish "a programme enabling members to grow in radical Christian ecological discipleship, through practical training and spiritual formation". Formation is not just about acquiring knowledge and skills. It's about helping each other grow as people who (to quote Thomas Merton) are becoming truly "human in this most inhuman of ages".

At the heart of our framework for formation we have discerned a "Way of Life" marked by four spiritual disciplines:

- Daily Prayer & Devotions
- Living Gently on the Earth
- Public Witness and
- Encouragement.

Fostering this Way of Life has been one of the Formation Group's main activities this year.

Some members find it helpful to commit to supporting each other in this fourfold way. There are now 34 such Companions in the "Way of Life Community", each linked with a nearby Companion as mutual "encouragers". They now receive a monthly letter and occasional videos sharing their personal experiences of living through the Way of Life. Any Green Christian member is welcome to explore how being a Companion might help them, though there is no expectation that anyone should.

As time goes on the Formation Group will continue to serve the whole membership of Green Christian, developing further resources for theological reflection, and arranging speakers at events and retreats.



Our retreat for 2018 was held at Minsteracres, County Durham, in July



Our **2018 retreat** gave 19 participants the opportunity to explore these disciplines further. "A Heart for the Earth" took place in at Minsteracres, County Durham, in July and was led by Chris Walton and Paul Bodenham.

As a resource for prayer, Philip Clarkson Webb produces our monthly **Prayer Guide**. Emma King has taken on the job of formatting it and putting it online. The *Prayer Guide* is published on our website, and 350 people have signed up to receive an alert when it is available. Emma also emails the monthly prayer guide out.

Participation

Our second new area of focus is to "offer events on an annual cycle to enable members to meet, and encourage more contact between members around the country". We aspire to be a co-operative movement, and an exchange of gifts between our members will be far richer than anything the "centre" can offer. This enrichment is the aim of the Participation Group convened by Peter Grimwood.

One successful innovation has been the series of events entitled "**On the Road Together**". These are regional gatherings designed to promote our message and to engage and enthuse Christians who share our outlook. Four took place in 2018, in London, Cambridge, Derby and Bristol.

One outcome we hope for is that these gatherings will lead to the formation of more **local groups**. There are currently 11 groups who receive support from Green Christian, thanks to Isobel Murdoch. As they try to green their Churches, run occasional events or cooperate with other organisations, they ensure Green Christian has a voice in their communities. The role they play will only be more important as we seek to foster more participation. Green Christian could witness more widely to more communities if there were more groups and contacts. Is this something you could consider?

We were at the **Greenbelt** festival in both 2017 and 2018, alongside Operation Noah, which we support by nominating three Trustees (Ruth Jarman, Reggie Norton and Martin Poulson). We were also represented at both meetings of **Environmental Issues Network** of Churches Together in Britain and Ireland (CTBI) in 2018.

Online contact is important to our members as a means of mutual encouragement. **CELINK**, our members' email discussion group, has 192 subscribers. Nicky Kierton maintains our **Facebook** group which has 636 members, and our page which has 596 "Likes". Louise Cook manages the **Growing them Green** Facebook group for parents, which now has 102 members.

Media

Our third aim has been to develop "a new editorial process and style for our publications so that they reach a new generation of members" – a task the Media Group has taken forward with its convenor Howard Gardner. It comprises four teams encompassing all the output of Green Christian: Magazine, Storm of Hope, Online Media, and Printed Media.

The Media Group oversees the publishing process, house style and copyright issues. The members are mindful of the visual impact of all the physical and electronic publications, and how language is used to engage our readers. They have already refreshed some of Green Christian's leaflets with a modified house style (grateful thanks to Dave Boyes, Graphic Designer), and also published *The 7 R's*, a brand new leaflet. Thanks also to Jill Vogler and Geoff Perrett who between them distribute our printed resources on request.

Green Christian magazine is issued twice a year, under the oversight of its editorial team, Clare Redfern, Suzy Brecknell and Simon Court, and Tanya Jones, Reviews Editor. We have commissioned original illustrations to adorn recent issues.

Storm of Hope is our annual opportunity to present a green Christian viewpoint to the wider public. The 2018 issue, by Deborah Tomkins and Peter Grimwood, introduced the Green Christian Way of Life.

The **website** offers up to date news as well as being a repository for our printed publications and reports of past events. It is managed by Poppy Pickard and edited by Judith Allinson, with occasional help from Louise Cook, Emma King, Ed Beale and Chris Warwick. Judith Allinson also maintains the "What's On" page, the Twitter account and the bi-monthly e-news. Diana Nefiodow has recently joined the team to oversee output via our YouTube channel.

Our **Twitter** account @greenchristian_ has 2,380 followers, and has increased steadily by about 330 each year since it was started in 2012. Thanks to all who have retweeted us over the last year.

Administration

Underpinning all the benefits we seek to offer is the vital work of the Administration Group, convened by Barbara Echlin.

Membership now stands at 870, comprising:

533	individuals
166	individuals in joint membership
12	magazine subscribers
20	organisations
33	Churches (down 33)
61	ministers in training (down 38)
45	additional complementary

Our total membership is down 58 from last year, much of which is accounted for by ministers in training, who took up an offer of two years' free digital membership, but subsequently did not take out full membership on completing their training. We are now planning to extend the scheme for a year to allow time for them to take up their first posts. The number of paying individual members remains at a similar level to last year.

In common with many charities, conforming to the requirements of the **General Data Protection Regulation** (GDPR) has been a preoccupation over the past year. Particular thanks to Simon Court in helping us navigate the process, and to Ruth Jarman and Judith Allinson who undertook the process of gaining consents – but also to you, our members and friends for your patience and understanding. We have updated our privacy policy and made it more prominent on the website.

CAN YOU HELP US?

There are many ways in which you can share in our work, such as:

- **Helping us bring an 'On the Road Together' event to your area**
- **Contributing social media content, articles for our publications, including for our Joy in Enough project on new economics**
- **Contributing your skills to one of the Groups outlined in this report, or to the Board of Green Christian.**

Unsurprisingly the refresh of our databases has led to some losses. For instance the number of e-News recipients dropped from 2,200 to 1,300, although the "open rate" increased from 32 percent to 48 percent, which is encouraging.

Now that we are GDPR-compliant, we look forward to getting started on our fourth priority: enabling our members to play the fullest possible part in Green Christian. The Administration Group will take a lead in "matching opportunities for action with members who have time, skills and passion to fulfil them".

Joy in Enough

Our Joy in Enough project is a challenge to Christians to join in building a just economy within the ecological limits of the Earth.

In November 2017 almost a 100 people attended our "**Big Workshop**" in Sheffield, which was preceded by our **Annual Members' Meeting**. Participants at the conference witnessed the launch of *Awakening to a New Economics*, the project's "core document" which has provided the launchpad for the development of Joy in Enough. The workshop also featured a trial run of the *Plenty!* "café conversation" session on consumerism. Further test runs have also taken place at the On the Road Together events. Soon all five topics in the *Plenty!* series will be completed, forming a series of weekly 90-minute sessions.

The website joyinenough.org is now up and running, and hosting various conversations and even some story-telling.

We are particularly grateful to members of the organising group, convened by Tony Emerson and more recently John Payne. They met for a weekend in July to build a shared vision for Joy in Enough and resolve a number of debates, such as about what our focus should be, who we want to reach and how change should be made to happen.

However Joy in Enough is already attracting outside interest. We sent speakers to gatherings organised by the Church of England's Diocese of Europe in Berne; by CTBI; and by Faiths for the Climate in London.

Our first advocacy project is to draft a declaration which will be signed by Church leaders. We've had a