

How do Companions meet with each other in a dispersed Community?

Companions are located throughout the UK – and some are very far away from others. This is recognised in the fourth discipline – ‘Encouragement’ which may take many forms. While telephone, Skype, e-mails and the Community Facebook page can be important means of support, clearly for most people personal or group meetings are preferable.

Companions and enquirers meet annually providing an opportunity for inspirational talks, group discussions and engagement.

When a new Companion joins the Community, (s)he is contacted for a welcome and informal discussion and

is linked up with another Companion (or group of Companions) so that they might become each other’s “Encourager” through one-to-one or small group meetings.

O God, our Father,
You have set us in a world of wonders
and given to us Your image.
Forgive our fascinations
leading us away from the sacred
and toward the profane.

But you do not give up on us.
You are the message of meaning
and the promise of love
written into the stars
and the life of this planet
manifest in Jesus,
our beacon of belonging
and beckoning truth.
We rest in holy longing. Amen

(Based on a prayer by Bruce Sanguin in *If Darwin Prayed*)

The Way of Life Community



Finding our Path and Walking Gently Together

Many spiritual communities have Rules or Ways of Life at the heart of which is a set of disciplines to assist believers in living out their faith in a deeper and more structured way.

The Green Christian Way of Life Community is offered to believers for whom care of God’s creation in all its forms is a fundamental outworking of their faith. The Way of Life is a calling for deeper engagement and shared encouragement. Followers of the Way are called “Companions”, who have committed to following 4 disciplines:

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



Join Green Christian

Send £30 cheque or £25 Standing Order (low income £12), £40 joint/family/corporate, or a donation for church membership (recommended amount £40) to:
Green Christian Membership, Flat 1,
31 St James Terrace, Buxton SK17 6HS.

Cheques payable to Green Christian.



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The Disciplines and how they may be followed

In following the 4 disciplines Companions can use many resources and become actively involved in a variety of activities, depending on their contexts, personal, local and beyond. There are several existing GC resources which are appropriate, for example:

Daily Prayer & Devotions:

GC's Prayer Diary, published each month.

Living Gently on the Earth:

adopting the ideas in our leaflets "Nine Ways to Live Gently on the Earth" (as an integral element) and "LOAF" principles for meals – Local, Organic, Animal friendly and Fairly Traded.

Public Witness:

committing to specific current or planned action for creation care, eg through active involvement in local, regional or national projects / campaigns and engaging in GC's "Joy in Enough" challenge to current economic thinking.

Encouragement:

supporting fellow Companions, either in pairs or larger groups.

The Commitment Prayer

The "covenant" commitment prayer can be used (a) when new Companions register, (b) whenever Companions meet up, eg annually when it is spoken as a dedication and (c) individually (if that is wished) by Companions as part of their practice in following the first discipline. It is a public statement of commitment to the Way of Life Community, a covenant between Companions and God and each other as members of an intentional, dispersed community. The following words form the end of the prayer ...

"May the earth sustain our strength
May Christ sustain our love
May we sustain one another's joy
And may we live as a blessing
To God, to the earth and to humanity
Amen".

The full text of the prayer can be found at www.greenchristian.org.uk/way/



Why a Green Christian Way of Life Community?

Many GC members already follow Rules (or Ways) of Life of other Christian communities, eg the Iona Community, the Community of Aidan & Hilda, the Northumbria Community and Third Order Franciscans – and indeed some churches have constructed their own Rules of Life. So why introduce a specific GC Way of Life?

While many of the other organisations include care of creation in their Rules of Life, that is one of several elements. The GC Way of Life Community's "Rule" arises out of the need espoused by Green Christian that Christian discipleship and formation in the 21st century must be informed by a life-style which nurtures God's creation, not destroys it. All of creation waits on tiptoe, with anticipation,

for the children of God to come into their own (Romans 8.20-22).

The time in which we are now living requires much prayer and mutual support in living simply on the earth, tackling climate change, challenging Government / local authority / business policies and practices, participating in campaigns, influencing our churches etc.

The Green Christian Way of Life Community offers an opportunity for those GC members and others who choose to commit and be accountable to each other for undertaking a set of spiritual principles and actions with **a key focus on the care of God's creation in all its forms.**

The Way of Life Community aspires to help us to more deeply explore what it is to be a green Christian – where care for the earth is a fundamental outworking of our faith. A Way of Life is a calling for deeper engagement and accountability.

As Green Christian enters a new and exciting phase in its development, the Green Christian Way of Life Community members (Companions) are dedicated to help each other grow in active and effective creation-centred spirituality in a way that is personally authentic to them and the context in which they live, work and worship. In short, we aim to offer "formation" – nurture for radical Christian ecological discipleship.