

Human Flourishing on a Flourishing Earth: Finding our way together. 8 June 2019

Seven of us from St James's Church and its Eco Church project went to Brighton to participate in this workshop,



This event was empowering, encouraging, informative and inspiring, according to the feedback from participants. The keynote speaker, award-winning environmentalist and solutionist Nicola Peel, was “Awesome, inspiring, deeply moving, deeply sad” but, “I was so glad of the solutions put forward” said a participant. Nicola’s explanation and illustration of biomimicry was particularly interesting and encouraging. The “What can I do?” section of her talk was very useful and gave people thoughts about what to follow up.

Writing about the whole event, Deborah Colvin (Sustainability Champion at St James’s Piccadilly) said:

“I really appreciated the explicit co-mingling/admixture of science, spirit, activism and contemplative approaches in this event. This is the third time I have heard Nicola speak, using her work in the Amazon as examples. Each time I hear Nicola, I have more ideas e.g. this time, making a water-catching sail for my porch roof to fill a water butt.

The workshops were excellent. Philip Roderick’s Green Grace was great, with many ideas we can adapt for the Eco Contemplative Liturgies we host in our church garden. Sandy Elsworth’s Great Water Challenge gave us really good practical information. Water is not considered nearly enough when we are thinking about the environmental crises we face.

I would like to see more of this kind of event, with outputs from the groups which go directly to politicians.”

The day was co-created by Earth Church at Brighthelm <http://brighthelm.org.uk>, Living Spirituality Connections www.livingspirit.org.uk, and Spirit of Peace <http://www.spiritofpeace.co.uk>. People in several areas are thinking of putting on a similar event in the future. To find out more about Nicola Peel’s work go to <http://nicolapeel.com> and <https://www.eyesofgaia.com>