

Rugby Baptist Church - How Green Are We?

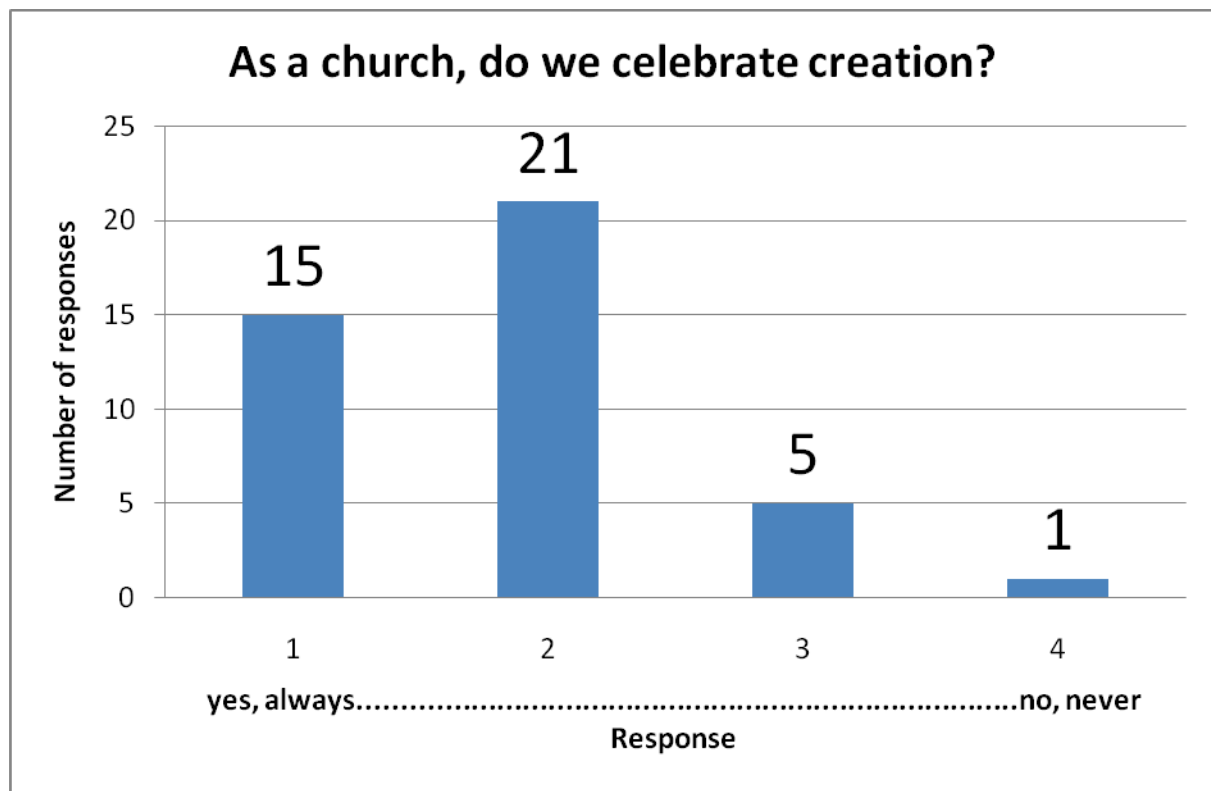
Questionnaire Analysis – Presented at RBC Environment Day

November 2010

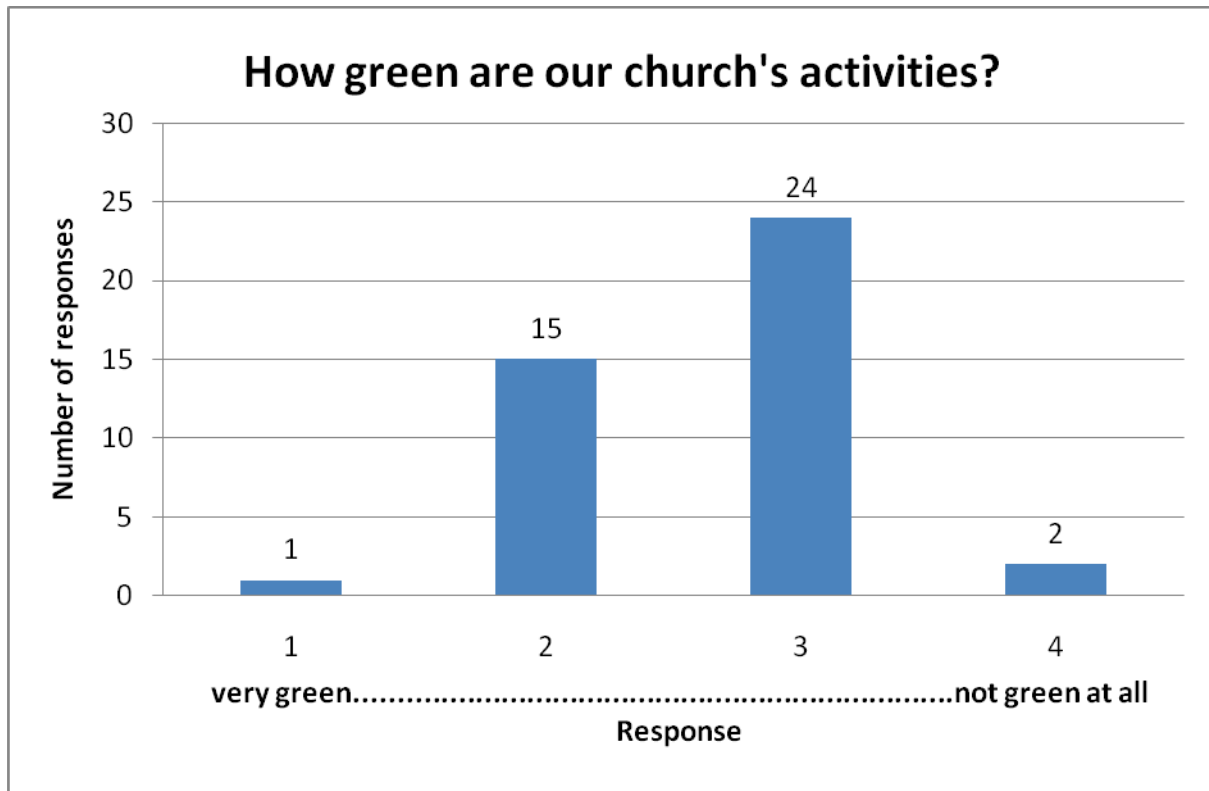
A few weeks ago the congregation attending the Rugby Baptist Church morning service were given the opportunity to complete a questionnaire to find out some opinions about how environmentally aware we are as a church.

42 people returned questionnaires, and the graphs and text presented here show their responses.

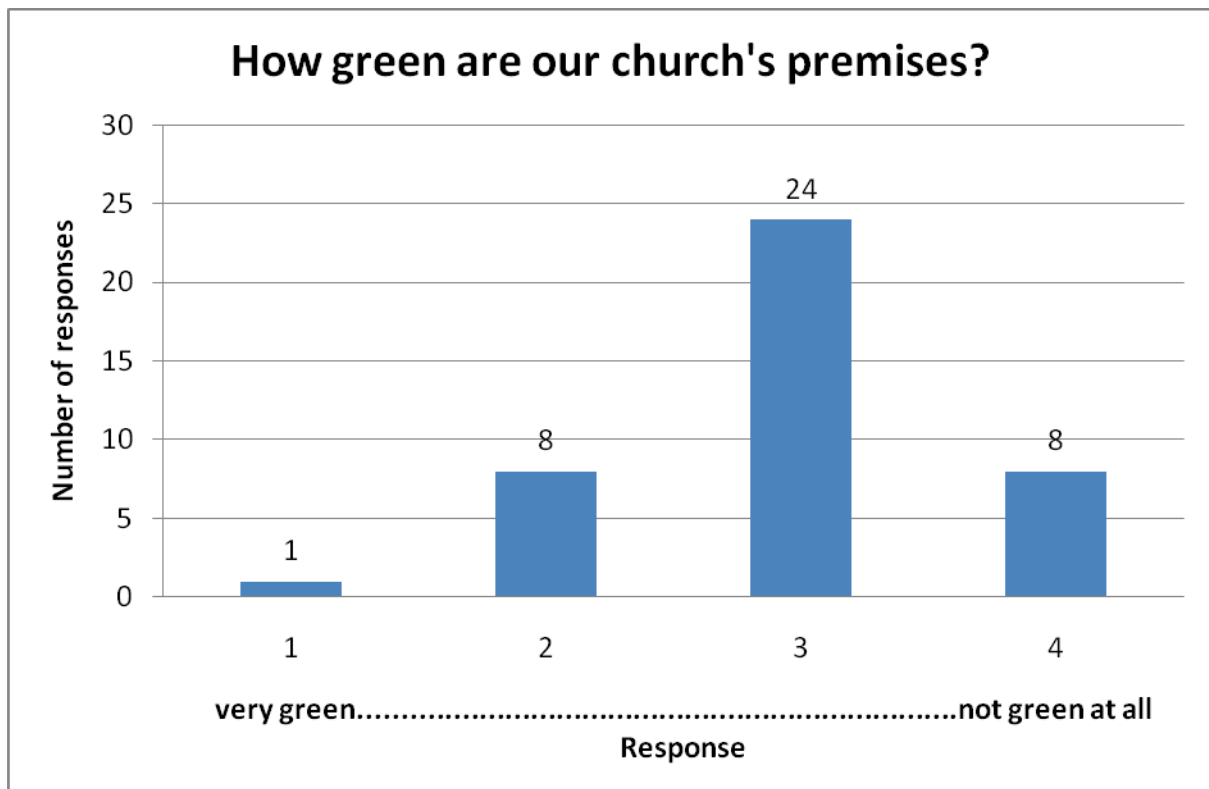
Question 1



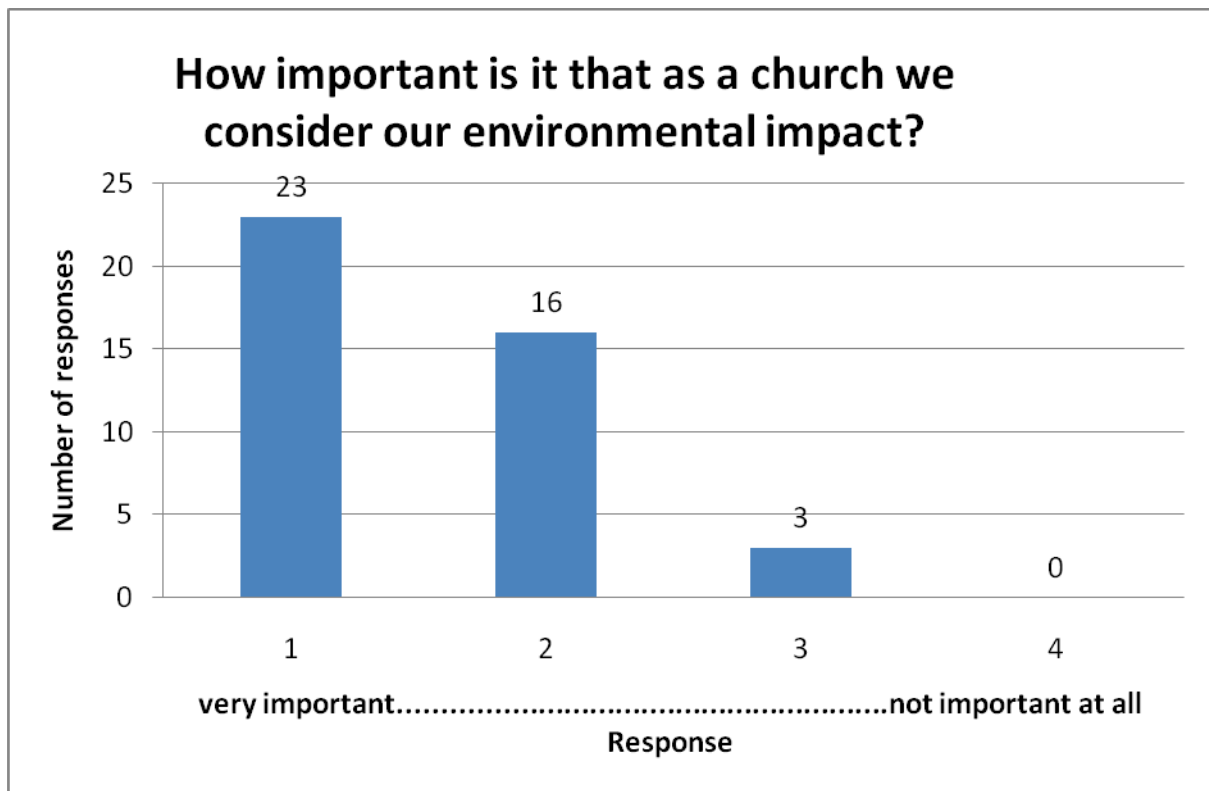
Question 2



Question 3



Question 4



As well as being asked to tick a box to show how important it is as a church that we consider our environmental impact, the respondents were also asked to say why.

More than a third of responses included the idea that it is God's world:

It is God's world and we should be looking after it.

Several respondents also felt that Christians should set an example in their behaviour:

Christians should set an example to the rest of society on caring for God's creation, not being selfish and planning for the future.

The answers to the question also showed that many people believe that God has given us the responsibility for looking after the world:

*God told us to care for his world and be good stewards of what we have.
We are responsible to look after God's creation.*

Some respondents made the point, though, that considering our environmental impact is not the only, or even the main, focus for our church.

It should not be a priority over more important things.

It is necessary for us as individuals and as a church to set a good example but it is secondary to winning souls.

The idea that it is important to consider the environment because it affects us all, and future generations too, was also suggested:

We need to look after our world as it affects us all.

Take care of the planet so that it's here for next generations.

The point was also made that:

We cannot celebrate creation without caring for it.

Question 5

Question 5 asked "What is the best thing we could do as a church to show our care for the environment?"

There were some ideas here that the Eco-Congregation Team will be able to follow up in the new year.

Some ideas concerned our premises and church based activities. Several respondents thought we ought to be looking at the heating and lighting systems in church, including looking at insulation, and using renewable energy:

improve our energy consumption.

Have a better heating and lighting system.

Do some work on the windows so we don't lose so much heat and costs so much.

Invest in renewable energy for the church e.g. solar energy—we have a large south facing roof.

A recurring theme was about recycling:

Recycling more.

Making sure ALL waste is sorted at church.

Some respondents suggested that we should consider using more recycled consumables, and reduce our use of disposable items:

Newsletters made from 100% recycled paper.

Give out recycled pencils.

Washing up instead of using paper plates / plastic cups at big events.

Email rather than producing lots of letters

There were some responses about reducing the number of car journeys:

Don't drive to church.

Lift sharing to reduce travel costs (and parking difficulties)

Organise via email rather than meetings where possible.

Some ideas concerned improving the environment of the local area:

Set up a litter picking group.

Clean up problems near the church.

As well as practical measures, the suggestion was made that as a church the best thing we could do might be to pray:

improve practically and pray about it.

Pray about those issues which will affect it and put our prayers into action.

Being aware of the issues, and making an effort were also put forward by several respondents:

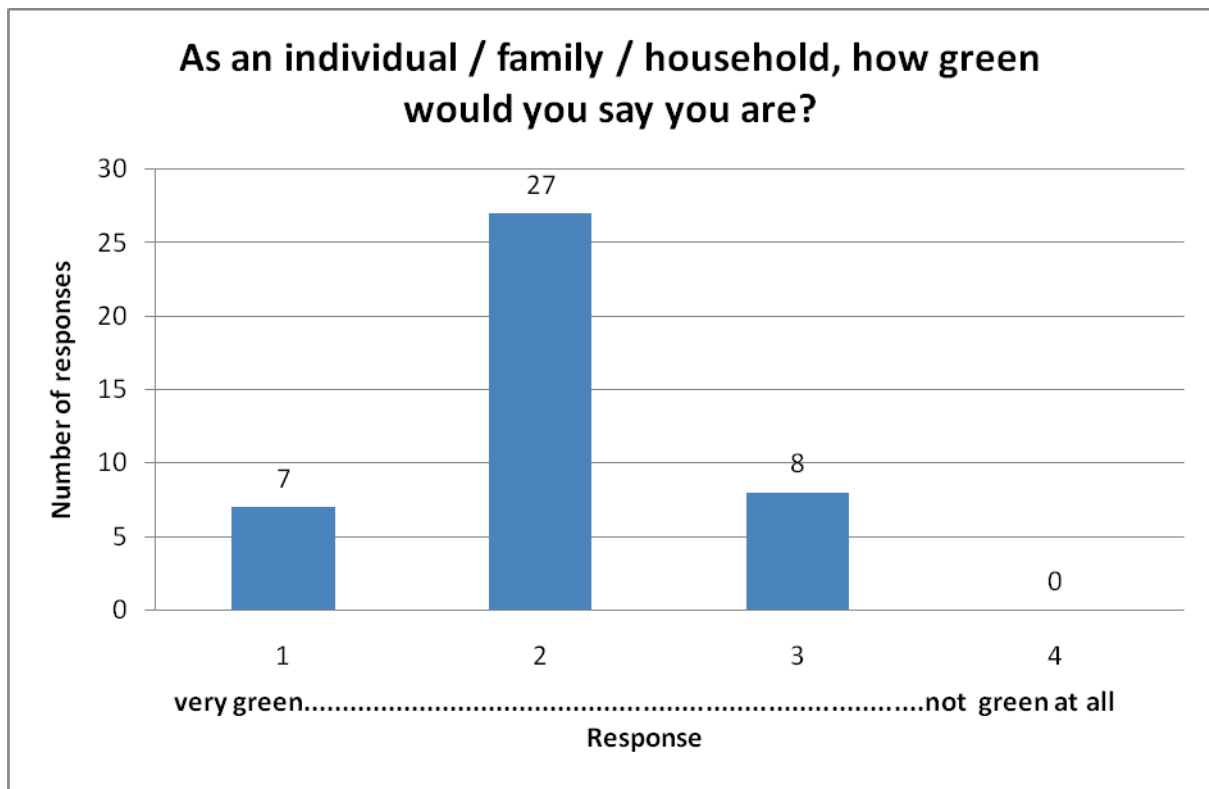
Each person making an effort (a bigger effort) to recycle and cut out wastage, even if it means things take longer.

Be aware of all that can be done to achieve this goal.

Finally, the suggestion was made that the best thing we could do as a church would be to:

Teach the congregation.

Question 6



Question 7

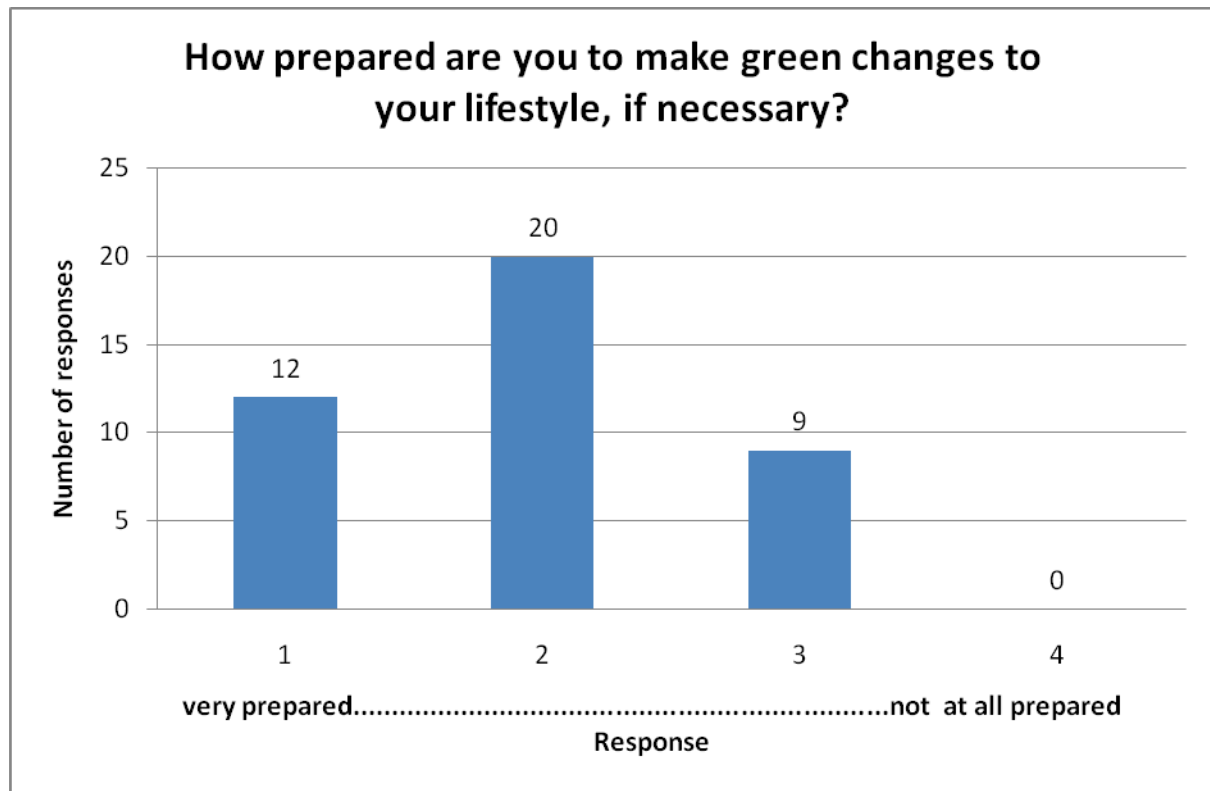
Question 7 asked “Do you have any green tips you would like to share with the church?”

People came up with a good selection of suggestions, and in the new year the Eco Congregation Task Group will be considering which ones we can put into practice as a church. Some of them may also be included as “green tips” in the church newsletter.

Here are a few of them:

- Don't buy more food than you need – and remember that lots of lovely meals can be made from left-overs!
- Don't buy things like cabbages from overseas when they are grown locally
- Make a compost heap
- Use the bus instead of the car, or share a car
- Plant a tree
- Turn off lights and use low energy bulbs
- Reduce water used by toilet cisterns by putting something in the tank
- Put paper recycling bins in the rooms used for children's groups around church
- Reduce the church's use of paper – especially the newsletter
- Use recycled paper
- Put lids on saucepans when cooking
- Don't leave electrical items on standby
- Sew new buttons onto old clothes so that they look like new clothes!

Question 8



As well as asking people “How prepared are you to make green changes to your lifestyle?” Question 8 asked people why they had responded as they did.

People’s answers to this question were refreshingly honest and realistic. The great news is that everyone who responded to the questionnaire is prepared to make at least some changes!

Reasons why people thought they could or should take action included:

- Because it’s important that we do our bit
- Because of what we are leaving to future generations
- Because the children are already setting an example to the adults
- Because our council make recycling easy for us
- Because it’s God’s creation and animals are important
- Because I’m a teenager

And reasons why they were more cautious included:

- I already do a lot of green things anyway
- Not wanting to be over-ambitious or change too suddenly
- I think it’s important but I’m a bit too lazy
- Lack of money limits my ability to make my home greener
- Our home is old and difficult to improve

- We find travelling by car convenient, even when there are alternatives that we could consider

Note

Thank you to everyone who completed questionnaires.

We want to encourage everyone in the church to do what they can. Nobody in the church is doing everything they could to help the environment. But on the other hand, feeling bad and guilty about it won't do any good!

“Just because you can't do everything, it doesn't mean you can't do anything”.