



Ordinary Christians,
extraordinary times

Joy
in
Enough

*Why the environment - & we who live in it -
need a new economics*

Welcome!

Common sense... since the 1700s

Ethics

Economics

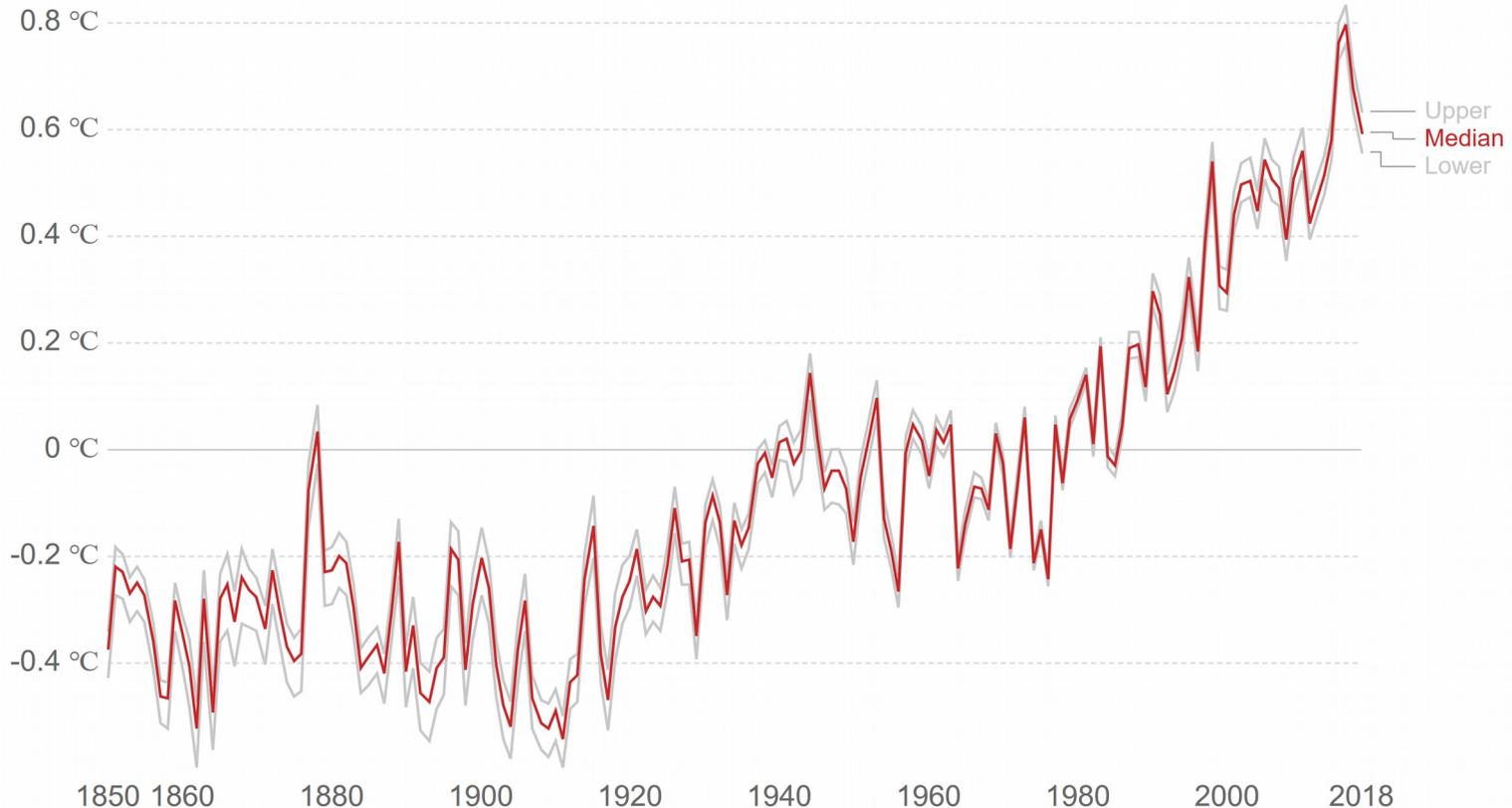
**Energy/
environment**

The presenting problem

Average temperature anomaly, Global

Global average land-sea temperature anomaly relative to the 1961-1990 average temperature in degrees celsius (°C). The red line represents the median average temperature change, and grey lines represent the upper and lower 95% confidence intervals.

Our World
in Data



Source: Hadley Centre (HadCRUT4)

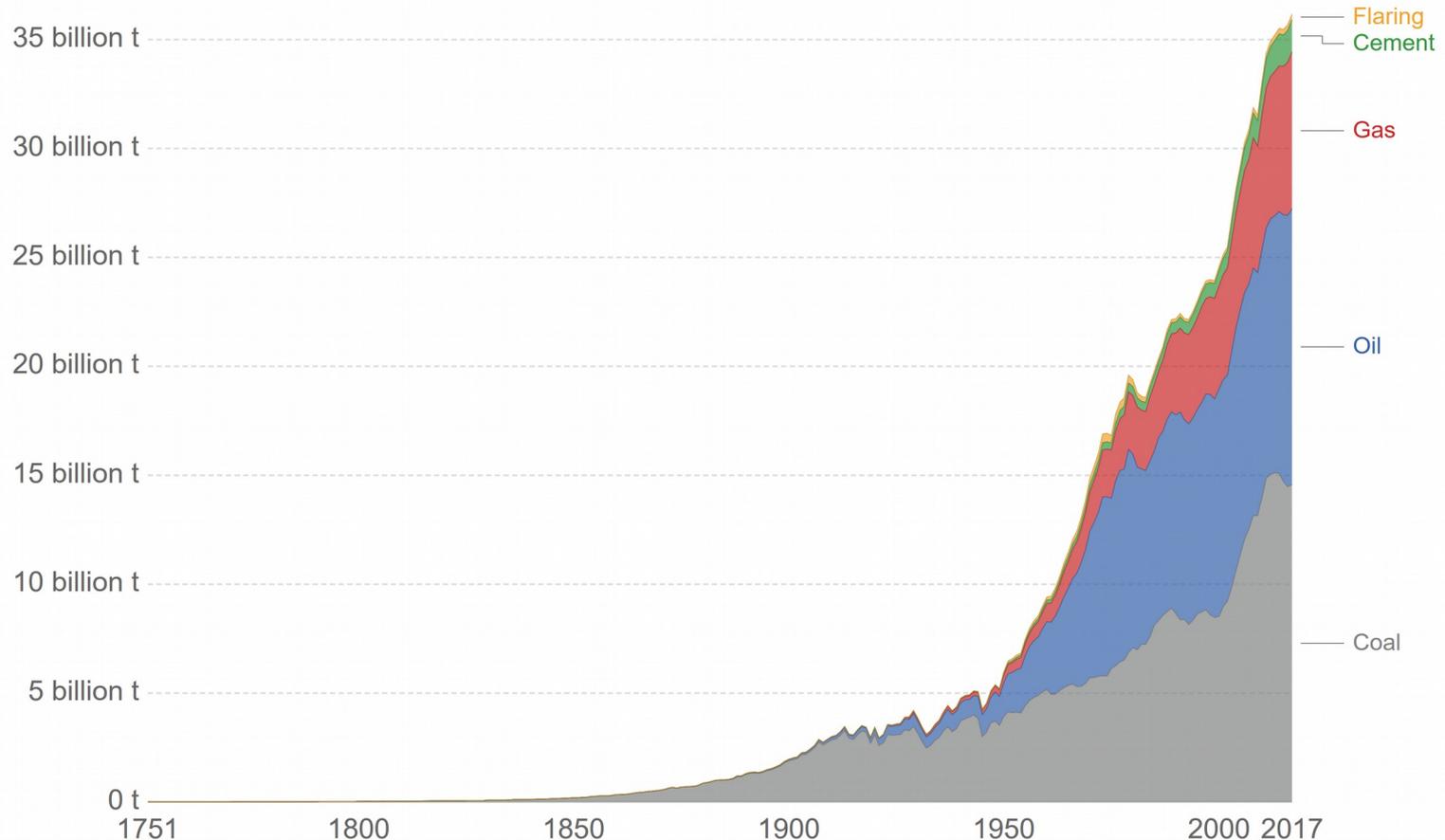
OurWorldInData.org/co2-and-other-greenhouse-gas-emissions • CC BY

The main cause of the problem

CO₂ emissions by fuel type, World

Annual carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions from different fuel types, measured in tonnes per year.

Our World
in Data



Source: Global Carbon Project (GCP); CDIAC

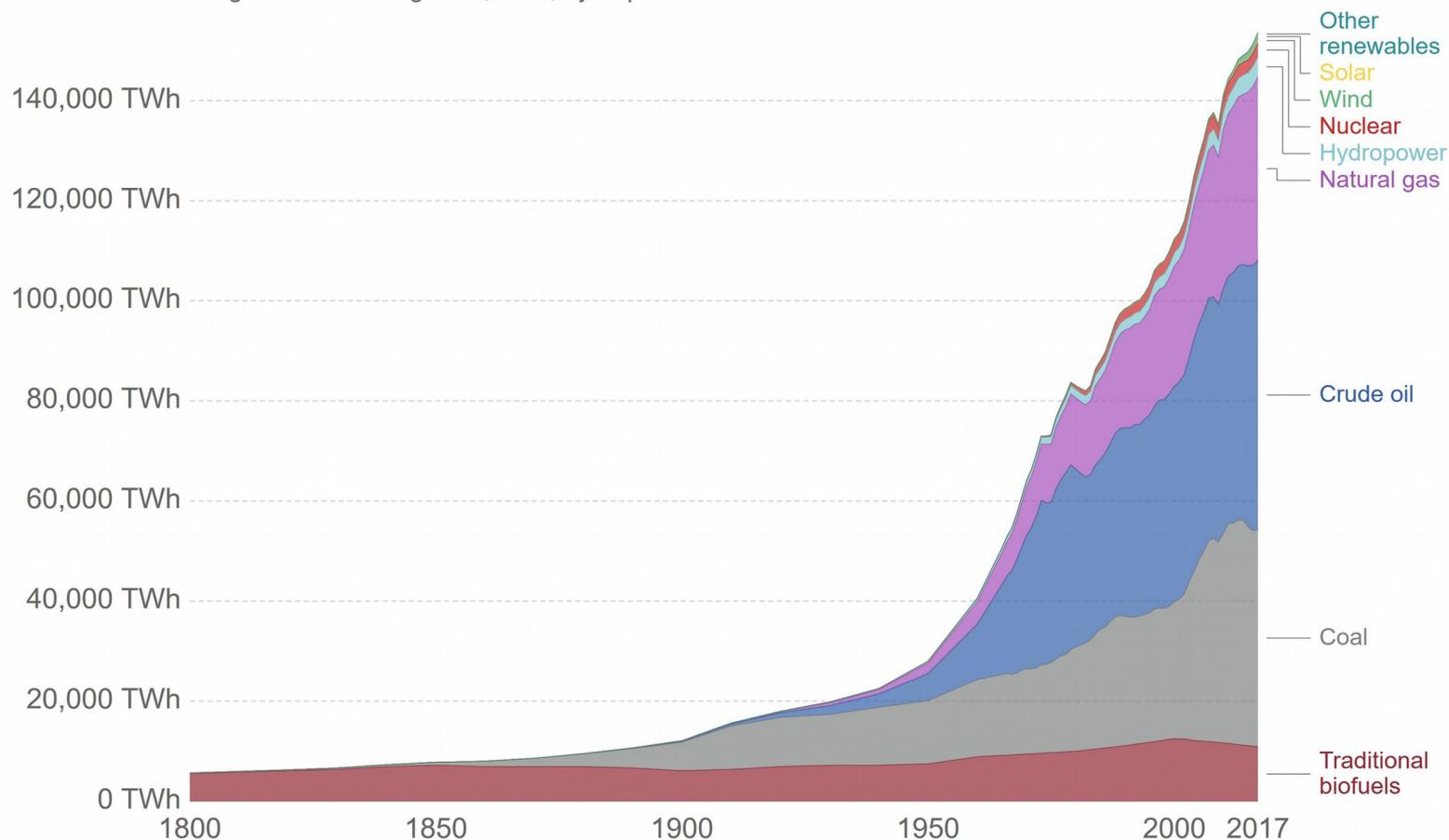
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Where did all that CO₂ come from?

Global primary energy consumption

Global primary energy consumption, measured in terawatt-hours (TWh) per year. Here 'other renewables' are renewable technologies not including solar, wind, hydropower and traditional biofuels.

Our World
in Data



Source: Vaclav Smil (2017) and BP Statistical Review of World Energy

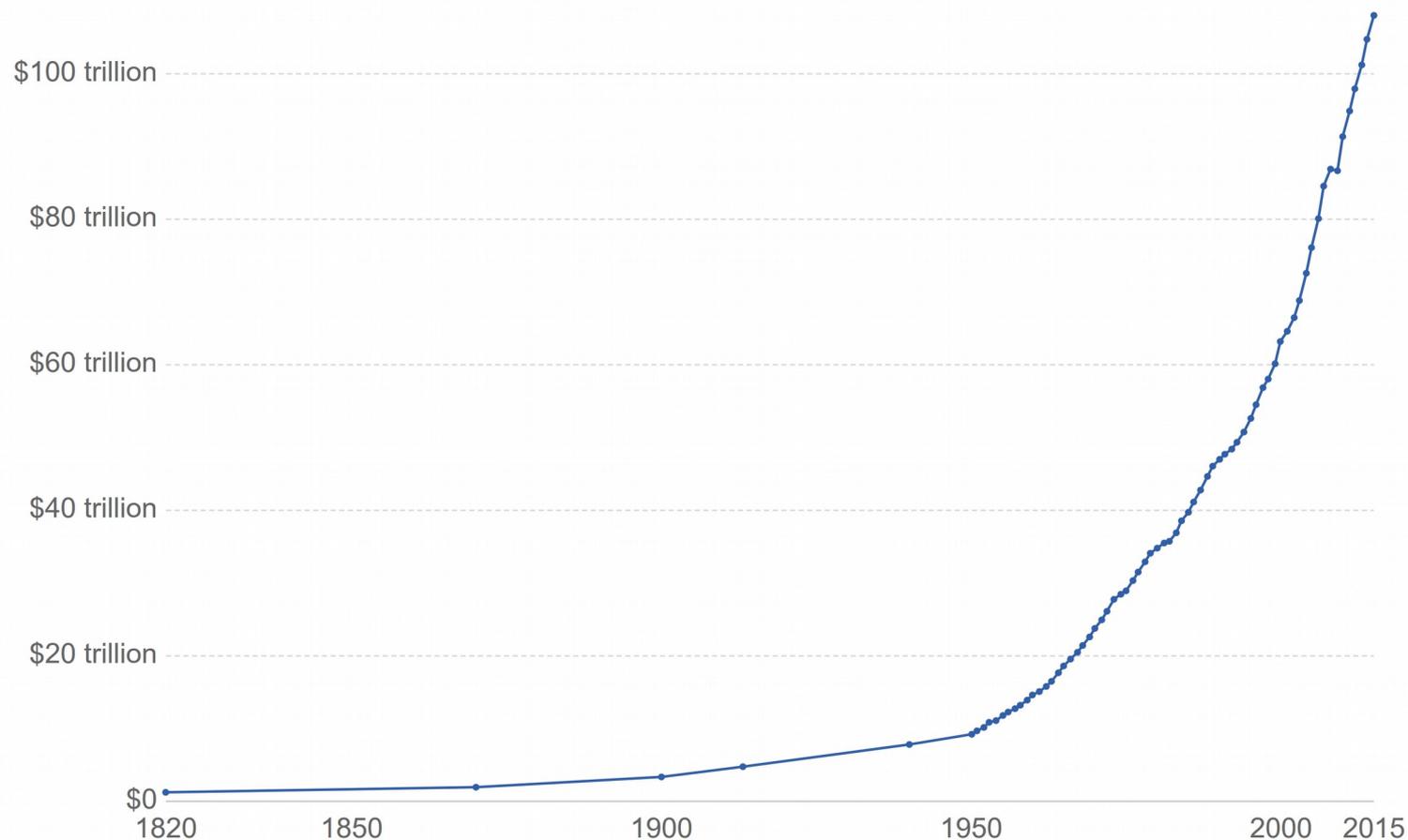
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And where did the CO₂ go?

World GDP

Total output of the world economy; adjusted for inflation and expressed in international-\$ in 2011 prices.

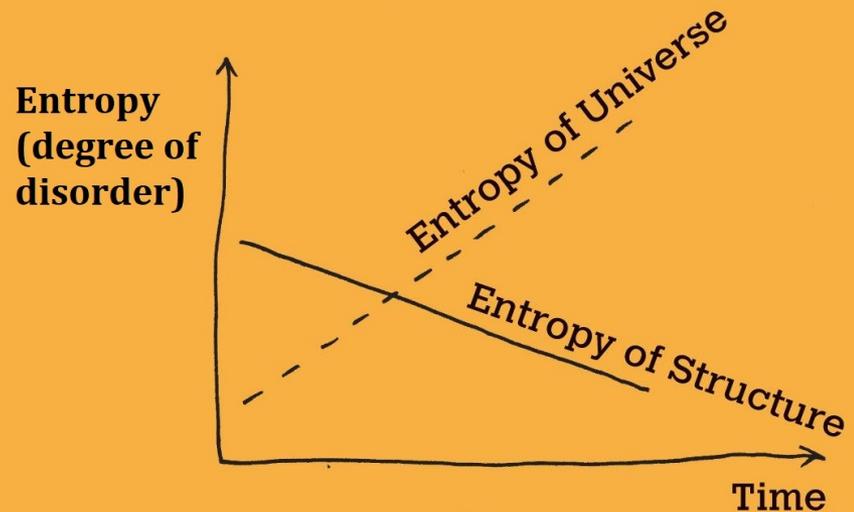
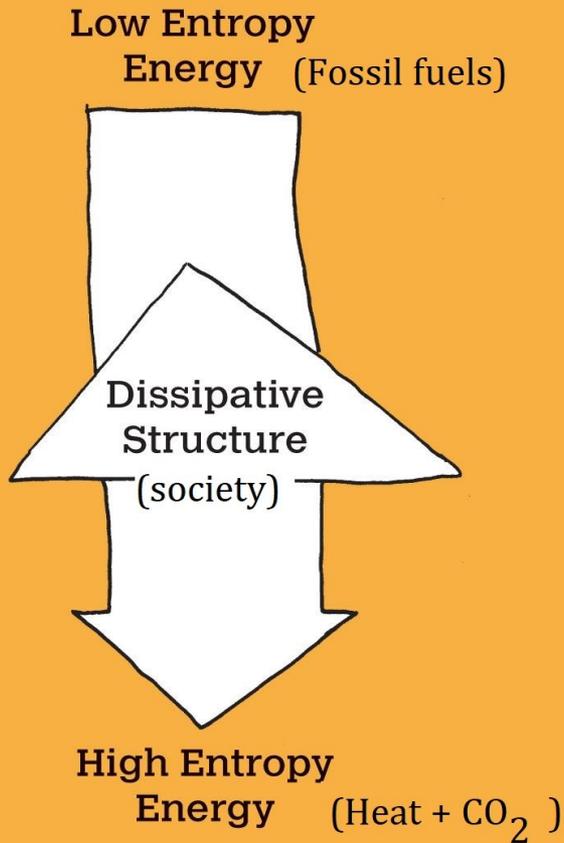
Our World
in Data



Source: World GDP - Our World In Data based on World Bank & Maddison (2017)

OurWorldInData.org/economic-growth • CC BY

So how do you make money?



Society is a *complex*, energetic-economic system

And how do we live well...



... as cheap, abundant energy declines...

... and the world gets warmer?



We need to revisit common sense

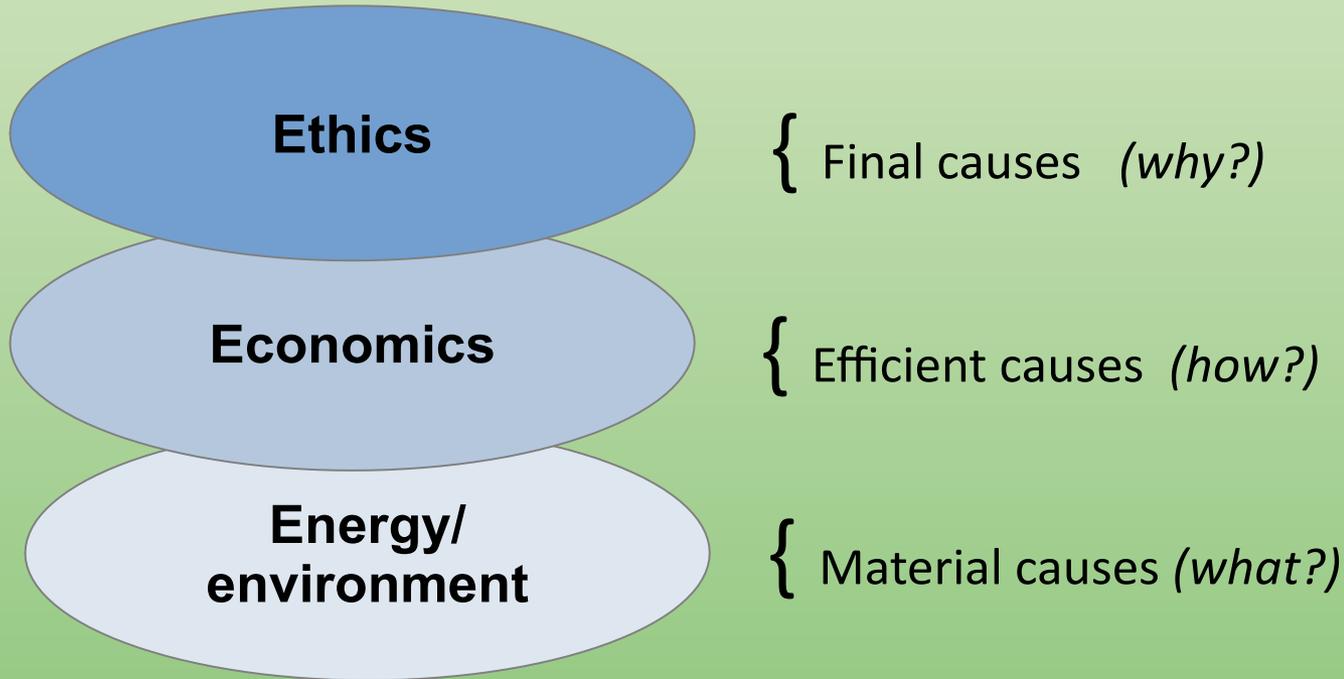
Ethics

Economics

Economics as *chrematistike*, 'money-making'

Energy/
environment

Rediscovering joy in enough



Economics as *oikonomia*, 'good housekeeping'

see Daly 1997; Daly & Cobb 1994

Rediscovering joy in enough

Ethics

What is the purpose of life?

The chief end of human life
is to glorify God
and to enjoy him for ever.

*Westminster Shorter
Catechism, 1647*



Plenty!

Café conversations about changing the world

Plenty!

Café conversations about changing the world

How does it work?



Plenty! is based on the model of a small group gathered informally around a table under the guidance of a facilitator - say in a coffee shop or a similar setting

What's it about?

Over the course of several meetings, group members begin to reflect on how our economy works, and on how it impacts on us as people.

The aim?

- to examine the usually unexamined assumption that endless economic growth is essential to human flourishing
- to begin to imagine other ways of living together well



Plenty!

Café conversations about changing the world

Who's it for?

Anyone!



Anyone who wants to look under the bonnet of ordinary life, to understand something of what makes it tick, and begin to think about how it could be better.

What topics get covered?

Can I have my life back?

- looking at some presenting problems, e.g. income insecurity, growing inequalities, housing, the nature of work, debt

Why do we need all this stuff?

- looking at the economics, psychology, sociology and theology of consumerism

What's your best price?

- looking at the nature of value and at the meaning of justice in economic exchanges

How much is enough?

- looking at the holy grail of economic growth – why it's so essential to the current economy, its environmental/human costs, other measures of well-being, the nature of money

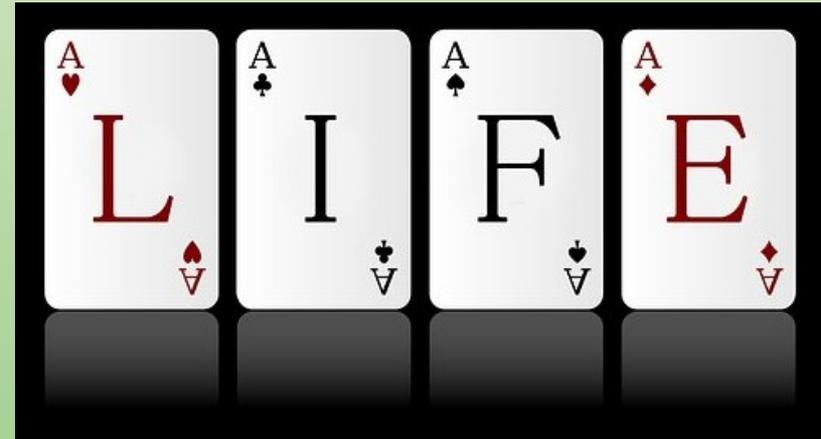
Where next?

- an opportunity to reinforce and reflect on the main learning points of previous sessions, and to discuss possible future actions

What's in each session?

Each 90-minute session is divided up into timed sections or rounds.

Each round involves dealing out a set of cards and reflecting together on their contents:



- **Topic card round** – introduces the session topic with a provocative story or quotation
- **Info card round** – group members share some key snippets of information relating to the session topic
- **Case Study card round** – examples of how some of the issues arising from the session topic are already being tackled
- **Reflection round** – an opportunity for group members to think about what's been learned during the session and to note any particular learning points to return to in the final session

Session 2:

Why do we need all this stuff?

What's your most prized possession? Why?

Introduce yourself to your neighbour
- your name, & where you're from
- then share your answers to these questions with him/her.

Then go around the group and say your name.

Session 2:

Why do we need all this stuff?

Info Card Round

Session 2:

Why do we need all this stuff?

Case Study Card Round



CASE STUDY CARD 1

Do your unwanted but useful items need new homes? Are you looking for something?

We help people give and get things for free in their local community. Some people have stuff they don't want any more. Other people would like things they don't have. We match them up. We

don't have physical premises, or warehouses - people give things directly to each other.

Don't throw it away, give it away!

How Does It Work?

It's simple.

- Post a message offering an item.
- Other people see it and reply to you
- Choose who to give it to and they collect.
- You've decluttered, made someone's day and saved an item from landfill.

That's freegling! And it's all free.

You can also search or browse the items offered, or post a request for something that other people might have.

Why Do We Do It?

We're run by volunteers, and people have different reasons! Common reasons are:

- Many of us are passionate about the environment - and reuse means we make and destroy less stuff.
- We like helping people get things they need, which they otherwise couldn't get.
- We care about our local communities, and this is a way to make them better.

From a member in Brighton:

Our toilet cracked and I put out a 'wanted' for a new toilet - to my delight, a woman from nearby got in touch to say she had a whole bathroom suite she was giving away! Our old one was that tasteful shade of 70s avocado and the side kept falling off the bath. We drove over to Shoreham and found the bathroom suite in her back garden - it just fitted in the back of my van, we brought it home and the only cost was for a plumber to fit it all, but now we have a nice new bathroom suite and no avocado to be seen!



CASE STUDY CARD 2

The Bruderhof ('Place of brothers') is the name of a network of intentional Christian communities which originated in Germany in the 1920s. Its spiritual roots lie in the Anabaptist teachings of Jakob Hutter (d. 1536), one of the leading figures in the Radical Reformation.

BRUDERHOF Their website reads:

<http://www.bruderhof.com/> *Love your neighbor. Share everything. OK, maybe not your toothbrush. But at the Bruderhof, we*

believe that sharing our lives and finances in Christian community is the answer to all that is wrong with society today. Here we are building a life where there are no rich or poor. Where everyone is cared for, everyone belongs, and everyone can contribute.

Those who join the Bruderhof are expected to give all property, earnings, and inheritances to the church community. In turn, all necessities such as food, housing, and health care are provided for. Members generally work for and in the community, but no-one receives payment in the form of a wage or allowance.

As well as practising community of goods and simplicity of life, the Bruderhof are well-known for the manufacture of range of fine and useful products using contemporary technology (they differ from the Amish in this respect) which are sold on the open market.

These include adaptive equipment for children and adults with disabilities and quality wooden classroom and play materials. In this way they collectively interact with their wider economic context and, indeed, prosper.

Today the Bruderhof comprise some 2700 people living in 23 settlements on four continents. There are three communities in the UK.

From the Bruderhof website:

We believe in not spending money on ourselves or accumulating possessions beyond what is essential, as is described of the early Christians in Acts 2 and 4. We may have the resources to buy expensive furniture or the latest technology, but instead we seek to live frugally so that we may give generously. Limiting material consumption also allows us to leave a smaller footprint on the earth.

Session 2:

Why do we need all this stuff?

Reflection Card Round

Plenty!

Why do we need all this stuff?

Take-away card

This session is intended to get people thinking critically about the culture of consumerism which we tend to take for granted. We have looked at some of its features and costs, and at some alternative ways of living good lives.

This sheet contains some questions which you might want to spend time thinking about after the session, and some suggestions for further reading.

- Which cards made most impact on you?
- Did any of the cards or conversations leave you feeling uncomfortable? Why?
- Would you like to find out more about any of the issues raised in this session?
- Is there anything you feel you need to do, or do differently, as a result of this session?

You can't worship two gods at once. Loving one god, you'll end up hating the other. Adoration of one feeds contempt for the other. You can't worship God and Money both.

You decide for God, living a life of God-worship, it follows that you don't fuss about what's on the table at mealtimes or whether the clothes in your closet are in fashion. There is far more to your life than what you put in your stomach, more to your outer appearance than the clothes you hang on your body. Look at the birds, free and wild, not tied down to a job description, careless in the care of you count far more to him than birds.

Why fussing in front of the mirror ever gotten taller by so much? All this time and money wasted on fashion—do you really care that much difference? Instead of looking at the fashions, go out into the fields and look at the wildflowers. They never primp and fuss. You ever seen color and design quite like it? The ten men and women in the country look shabby alongside

attention to the appearance of wildflowers—most of them have been seen—don't you think he'll attend to you, take care of you for you? What I'm trying to do here is to get you to stop being so preoccupied with getting, so you can respond to what God is doing. Who don't know God and the way he works fuss about it. Who don't know both God and how he works. Steep yourself in God-reality, God-initiative, God-provisions. Don't worry about missing out. You'll find all your everyday human concerns will be met.

Give your entire attention to what God is doing right now, and don't get worked up about what may or may not happen tomorrow. God will help you deal with whatever hard things come up when the time comes.

Jesus, in Matthew's gospel chapter 6
from *The Message*, © 2002 Eugene H. Peterson



GreenChristian

Ordinary Christians,
extraordinary times

Joy
in
Enough

<https://joyinenough.org/>