

St James Environment Policy

We affirm these elements of our faith:

- Through Christ, God has created an awesome and majestic cosmos to bring Him praise and glory. We are but one part of His created order.
- Jesus has redeemed the whole earth through His death and resurrection.
- We recognise that we have a special responsibility to care for the Earth so that human life and all God's creatures may be sustained in harmony.

Aim

As a local church, we aim to have a ministry and mission of environmental stewardship, both for our own property, through our congregation and in our community, which glorifies God and brings Christ's kingdom in our parish.

Objective

As a church community, we will take environmental concerns into account in our mission, worship, study, education, training, pastoral, administrative and other projects and programmes.

Actions

1. We will appoint a person as our Parish Environmental Representative/Champion to lead our programme and encourage him or her to bring relevant environmental issues and concerns forward to the PCC on a regular basis.
2. We will include our concern for sustainability in our worship and teaching.
3. We will undertake to calculate our church's carbon footprint annually and work to reduce it in line with the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change targets (45% reductions in carbon emissions by 2030 and to net zero emissions by 2050, from 2010 levels).

4. We will consider how our church is vulnerable to extreme weather from climate change and develop a climate resilience plan. For example upgrading rainwater goods to cope with intense rainfall, tree planting to provide shading in heatwaves, hedges for strong wind protection, having a flood plan.
5. We will undertake an environmental and energy audit of the church premises and property, identify the most significant issues and impacts which should be addressed and make and implement plans and programmes to tackle them. We recognise that some additional costs may be incurred to minimise environmental impacts and that changes to buildings may need faculty permission, requiring consultation with the Diocesan Advisory Committee and external bodies to ensure historic buildings legislation requirements are met.

As the church's energy use is arguably its greatest environmental issue, we will seek to reduce the greenhouse gas emissions of the electricity and gas used in church premises by:

- Switching to "green" energy suppliers (renewably generated electricity and biogas)
 - Using thermostats for temperature control
 - Fitting LED light bulbs
 - Improving insulation wherever practicable and appropriate
 - Turning off lights, appliances and computers when not in use
 - Replacing old, inefficient boilers where practicable and investigating renewable heating alternatives
6. We will work with others in our local community to identify environmental issues which should be addressed in our area and help develop actions to tackle them.
 7. We will encourage our staff and congregation wherever possible to use forms of transport to work, meetings etc. which have minimum or reduced environmental impact – e.g. walk, cycle, public transport, car sharing, electric, hybrid, compressed natural gas or hydrogen vehicles.
 8. We will seek to reduce the greenhouse gas emissions of the food we serve. For example providing mainly vegetarian or vegan meals and using locally sourced produce where possible
 9. We will ensure that our church's money is being used ethically and our investments and bank account are divested from fossil fuels.
 10. We will seek ways to reduce material consumption and the impact of our activities on the environment by, wherever possible:
 - using email rather than sending hard copies
 - using recycled paper
 - reusing/ repairing items
 - using low environmental impact cleaning materials
 11. We will avoid using water unnecessarily, install water meters where appropriate, check for leakages, fit water minimising systems to taps and cisterns wherever practicable.
 12. We will assess our land and property for wildlife and manage them to conserve biodiversity.

13. We will encourage individual members of our congregations to take actions in their personal lives to complement and supplement these actions of the church community.
14. We will participate in the Eco Church programme.

This policy and programme will be reviewed every three years in light of developments. Next review Date – May 2022

Useful Resources

Eco Church, A Rocha <https://ecochurch.arocha.org.uk>

Diocese of Leeds Environment webpages www.leeds.anglican.org/environment

Church of England Environment Programme www.churchcare.co.uk/shrinking-the-footprint/about-shrinking-the-footprint

Churches Together in Britain and Ireland environment webpage

<https://ctbi.org.uk/environment-links#ecochurch>

Pray and Fast for the Climate www.prayandfastfortheclimate.org.uk

Green Christian www.greenchristian.org.uk

Climate Stewards www.climatestewards.org

Operation Noah <http://operationnoah.org>

Caring for God's Acre, churchyard care www.caringforgodsacre.org.uk

Historic England (environmental performance and historic buildings)

<https://historicengland.org.uk/advice/technical-advice/energy-efficiency-and-historic-buildings>