

PCC of Charlton All Saints

Eco Church Draft Policy

Created 2/6/2025

“Our aim is to strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and to sustain the life of the earth.” – Fifth Mark of Mission

We adopt the same vision and strategy as stated by our Diocesan Synod with its commitment to champion climate justice, the fifth mark of mission, through the adoption and implementation of the Diocesan Net Zero Carbon Action Plan.

We pledge to bring forward future actions and commitments to achieve climate justice as we Make Jesus Known.

We are committed to becoming an Eco Church, and to implement such practices which are required of us to be responsible stewards to sustain the earth, to live ecologically and in harmony with the whole creation.

There are five areas through which we will demonstrate our commitment.

Worship and Teaching

Teaching, scripture readings, prayers, hymns, and preaching, will regularly and frequently encourage us to celebrate the gift of God’s earth and keep in mind our responsibilities to care for it; also, it will remind us, that we are called live just and prophetic lives.

Buildings

We aim to reduce the carbon footprint of the parish church buildings by:

1. Monitoring our energy use, working out our carbon footprint and commit to xxxx reduction.
2. Seeking ways to reduce material consumption and impact of our activities on the environment (with the total use of environmentally friendly products, such as for cleaning and flower arranging).

We acknowledge that some additional cost may be incurred to minimise environmental impacts.

Land

Charlton All Saints has one church and one churchyard surrounding it. The churchyard has the potential to make an important contribution to the biodiversity of the local community and to offer a special place for wildflowers and wildlife.

We will explore the possibility of becoming net carbon positive by 2030.

We will work with the wider community to follow the five step programme recommended by the organisation Caring for God’s Acre, which focuses on the conservation of churchyards

and burial grounds, as outlined in their document <https://www.caringforgodsacre.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/A1-The-Five-Steps-to-Churchyard-and-Burial-Ground-Care-2022.pdf>

1. Research existing records.
2. Map the site and record information about plants, animals and built features.
3. Make a plan, including how the site will be managed. Of great importance is to talk to people and reach an agreement on management
4. We will inform the community about the plants and invite them to become involved. Events and training days will be organised to help people learn more about the site.
5. Review the plan periodically.

Community and Global Engagement

1. Becoming an Eco Church will affect every area of our Christian lives, including how we engage with the Charlton community and the wider world.
2. We will work with others in our local community to identify environmental issues to be addressed and help to develop actions to tackle them.
3. We will live ecologically. For example, we will use Fairtrade products, and serve food that is locally produced, organic and animal-friendly wherever and whenever possible.
4. We will keep ourselves informed about wider and global climate issues, and actively campaign on their behalf or through local events.

Lifestyle

The parish will work towards putting faith into action, by encouraging its members to make honest audits of their lifestyles and reflect on:

1. How to live more prophetic and just lives.
2. How to live more lightly on the earth, considering lifestyle issues, such as forms of transport, use of locally produced items and of Fairtrade products.
3. How to produce articles and tips in News & Notes, on the parish webpage and via an email newsletter to subscribers, so that we can all find ways of living without harming God's earth.

Eco Champion

Charlton All Saints has appointed an Eco Champion to seek to implement this policy and to bring relevant environmental issues and concerns to the PCC and the wider parish on a frequent basis.

Adoption by the PCC

This policy is accepted by the PCC on (date)

By (name)

This policy will be reviewed by the PCC on or before (date)