



Environmental Policy



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Introduction

As a parish within the Body of Christ, we recognise our responsibility to care for God's creation. We affirm the fifth mark of mission: "To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation, and sustain and renew the life of the earth." Our commitment is rooted in scripture, tradition, and the urgent call to respond to the climate and biodiversity crises.

Our Vision

We seek to be a community that reflects God's love for all creation through our worship, buildings, land, lifestyle, and engagement with others. As part of our Eco Church journey we are embedding ecological awareness into the heart of parish life.

1. Worship and Teaching

- Integrate creation care regularly into our worship, prayers, preaching, and teaching.
- Celebrate the Season of Creation annually and observe environmental-themed liturgies.
- Encourage theological reflection on ecological justice in home groups and study courses.

2. Buildings

- Improve energy efficiency in church buildings, aiming to reduce carbon emissions year-on-year.
- Use renewable energy where feasible, and monitor energy usage regularly.
- Ensure any renovation or development follows eco-friendly and sustainable practices.
- Explore green procurement practices and reduce single-use plastics.

3. Land

- Manage our churchyard and any parish land to enhance biodiversity and support local wildlife.
- Avoid the use of harmful pesticides and herbicides.
- Install bird boxes, bug hotels, and native planting schemes in consultation with local experts.

4. Community and Global Engagement

- Work with local schools, community groups, and other churches on environmental initiatives.
- Support and raise awareness of environmental justice and climate action campaigns.
- Maintain fair trade status and actively promote ethical, low-carbon consumption choices.
- Host talks, workshops, and events to inspire action locally and globally.

5. Lifestyle and Discipleship

- Encourage parishioners to reflect on their ecological footprint and make positive lifestyle changes.
- Promote walking, cycling, and car-sharing to church.
- Provide regular updates on our environmental progress in church communications.
- Encourage sustainable hospitality and eco-conscious parish events.

6. Governance and Monitoring

- Appoint an Eco Church lead and maintain an active Eco Church Group.
- Embed environmental considerations in PCC decisions.
- Review this policy annually and report progress to the PCC and congregation.
- Keep our ARocha Eco Church survey up to date and use it to guide further improvements.

Conclusion

We commit ourselves to prayer, learning, and practical action as we care for God's creation. This policy is a living document, shaped by scripture, science, and our shared life in Christ.

Adopted by the PCC on: [Insert Date]

Next Review Date: [Insert Date]

Eco Church Coordinator: [Insert Name]