

## **Parish Environmental Policy**

### **Aim:**

As a local church, we aim to take the practical steps necessary to realise the Fifth Mark of Mission, which is “to strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and to sustain the life of the earth”.

### **Objective:**

We will take environmental concerns into account in all aspects of our church life, including our worship, teaching, mission, pastoral, youth and children’s work, training, administration, and charitable giving.

#### **1. Worship, Teaching & Mission, Youth & Children’s Work**

We will include the importance of care for creation in our worship, teaching and mission, and our work with children and young people.

#### **2. Parish Environmental Contact**

We will appoint an Environmental Contact to act as a point of contact for the Deanery Environment Champion, and to promote environmental news, issues and concerns forward to the PCC on a regular basis.

#### **3. PCC Oversight**

We have an agenda Item on the Environment at every regular PCC. We will maintain an Environment Action Group with the objectives of:

- Assisting the PCC to set annual energy and biodiversity targets
- Reporting our energy usage, and our environmental impact
- Advising the PCC on potential initiatives
- Reviewing all major projects to assess their environmental impact, and advising of any potential improvements that could be incorporated

#### **4. Eco Church**

We will work towards achieving a Silver Eco Church Award.

#### **5. Energy Footprint Tool**

We will ensure that our church submits a return for the CofE Energy Footprint Tool each year in order to monitor our church energy usage and gain an estimate of the current carbon footprint for our church building/s.

#### **6. Energy Audit**

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, recognising that some additional costs may be incurred to minimise environmental impacts.

## **7. Tackling our Energy Use & Carbon Footprint**

We will seek to monitor and reduce our energy use and our greenhouse gas emissions of the electricity and gas used in church premises by:

- Switching to “green” energy suppliers
- Managing our heating to match building usage and reduce where practical
- Continue fitting LED light bulbs
- Turning off lights, appliances and computers when not in use
- Limiting the use of external lighting
- Improving insulation wherever practicable
- Investigating renewable heating alternatives

## **8. Transport**

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/ hydrogen vehicles.

## **9. Recycling and Unnecessary waste**

We will seek ways to reduce material consumption and the impact of our activities on the environment wherever possible. For example:

- Using email rather than sending hard copies
- Using recycled paper
- Reusing/ repairing items
- Using low environmental impact cleaning materials

## **10. Water use**

We will avoid using water unnecessarily, install water meters where appropriate, check for leakages, fit water minimising systems to taps and cisterns wherever practicable.

## **11. Churchyard at St. Michaels and the grounds at St. Andrews**

We will assess our land and property for wildlife and manage them to conserve and enhance biodiversity.

## **12. Sustainable lifestyle**

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.

**13. Community outreach**

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.

**14. Charitable Giving**

We will consider directing some of our charitable giving to charities which are working to care for the environment or to support those who are adversely affected by climate change.

Signed: Approved at PCC meeting

Name: A Hobbs

Dated: 15<sup>th</sup> November 2022

This policy will be reviewed every three years in light of developments.

Next review date: November 2025