

The Parish of St Michael and All Angels, Cofton Hackett and St Andrew's, Barnt Green

Parish Policy for the Environment

was agreed by the Parochial Church Council on 21 July 2026

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, care of our land and buildings, and charitable giving.

We aim to support the Church of England's objective of achieving net carbon zero by 2030.

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 have appointed a person as Parish Environmental Contact, to act as a point of contact for the Deanery, 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:

- Reporting to PCC on our use of electricity, gas, and water, and monitoring the effect of any changes.
- Reporting our carbon footprint assessment from the Energy Footprint Tool.
- Reviewing all major projects to assess their environmental impact, and advising of any potential improvements that could be incorporated

4. Eco Church

We are registered with Eco Church and have achieved a Silver Eco Church Award. We will use the Gold Award criteria as a guide for our next steps.

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:

- Using “green” energy suppliers for electricity
- Managing our heating to match building usage and reduce where practical
- Turning off lights, appliances and computers when not in use
- Limiting the use of external lighting
- Improving insulation wherever practicable
- Investigating renewable heating alternatives for when our existing heating becomes uneconomic

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 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 St. Andrews

We have assessed St. Michaels for wildlife and biodiversity. We will continue to manage it to conserve and enhance biodiversity, and to provide an area for enjoyment by the community.

We will look to improve St. Andrews for wildlife.

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.

Dated: 21st July 2026

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

Next review date: July 2029