

Environmental Policy

Background

The World Council of Churches has stated that the ecological crisis, including the climate emergency, is

'bringing us to the brink of mass suffering and destruction'.

Recognising that climate change is a global emergency, the Paris Agreement of December 2015 has now been signed up to by nearly 200 countries, including the UK, committing them to reduce emissions and working towards a low-carbon economy.

The Church of England in support of this and its commitment to its own 5th Mark of Mission has recognised the climate emergency.

In February 2020 the Church of England General Synod passed a resolution recognising that

'the global climate emergency is a crisis for God's creation and a fundamental injustice'

and it called upon all parts of the Church of England, including parishes, to work to achieve year-on-year reductions in carbon emissions, which the church is able to take responsibility for, and urgently to examine what would be required **to reach net zero emissions by 2030.**

Archbishop Justin Welby:

"It becomes ever clearer that climate change is the greatest challenge that we and future generations face. It's our sacred duty to protect the natural world we've so generously been given, as well as our neighbours around the world who will be first and worst affected. Without swift decisive action the consequences of climate change will be devastating."

At St Luke's we wish to respond to this call by the Church of England.

St Luke's Environment Policy & Commitments

Our Understanding of Creation and the Good News

We understand all creation is a gift from God. As Christians we are being called to establish the Kingdom of God and re-establish a harmonious relationship with God and creation, where social and ecological justice are linked and realised together.

The PCC of St Luke's Church wants publicly to recognise the climate and environmental emergency and, along with the wider church, commit ourselves to a series of actions that aim to reduce our negative impact on the environment and to work towards achieving Carbon Net Zero by 2030.

An Environmental Group has been set up with the purpose of ensuring continual improvement and progress against our environmental commitments. St Luke's PCC, as part of our strategy for successful implementation, will provide support and financial assistance where appropriate.

Our 10 Environmental Policy Commitments



St. Luke's Prestonville

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Worship: We will through worship, prayer and ministry share the Good News of Jesus Christ, and as part of this, actively promote good environmental stewardship and care for all creation. In our ministry to young people and families we will include teaching about the protection and love of the environment;

Eco Church: By September 2023 we will seek to achieve the Silver Eco Church standard and we will progress to the Eco Church Gold standard by 2025.

Energy: We will replace our carbon heavy heating and lighting systems by 2025 with more efficient solutions running, exclusively, on renewable energy sources;

Investments: We will review our investments and energy suppliers to support our intentions to disinvest from fossil fuels, protect the environment and promote social justice;

Efficiency: We will maintain and, where possible, improve the environmental sustainability of our buildings to reduce their dependency on bought energy and wasteful use or leakage of water;

Land: We will continue to manage the church garden and vegetable patch in such a way that we encourage the flourishing of wildlife. Where appropriate we will commission studies to enable us to better conserve and enhance biodiversity of flora and fauna.

Buying: We will reduce the pollution, we cause, by seeking to ensure that our purchasing of products and food meets the LOAF principles (Locally-sourced, Organically-grown, Animal-friendly and Fair-traded) and that where possible journeys to and from church and church related meetings are made using car-sharing, by public transport, by cycle or on foot;

Learning: We will explore ways in which we can encourage members of our church to contribute to this agenda both at church and in their own lives. In addition to principles set out in the preceding commitments, reduction, re-use, repair and recycling will be strongly encouraged.

Community: We will work with local community groups to promote a sustainable environmental approach;

Campaigns: We will seek to be informed of national and local initiatives and to work with other churches locally, in the city and wider afield on how we can best respond to the climate crisis and protect the integrity of creation.