

Climate Emergency Policy

St Mary's PCC acknowledges the connection between our climate and other environmental crises and the threat of current and potential future homelessness, disease, destruction of biodiversity, food and water shortages and poverty for millions of people around the world. Therefore St Mary's PCC recognises its responsibility to respond to the climate emergency, reduce its carbon and environmental footprints and formally commits itself to being an environmentally responsible charity.

To take this forward we commit to the following actions:

- 1) As a church community, we will take the climate emergency into account in our mission, worship, study, education, training, pastoral, administrative and other projects and programmes and ensure our community is informed about the predicted impacts of the Climate Emergency on our local community and the wider world.
- 2) We will appoint a person as our Climate Emergency Champion to lead in this area and encourage her/him to bring relevant environmental issues and concerns forward to the PCC on a regular basis.
- 3) We will include our concern for sustainability in our worship and teaching.
- 4) 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.
- 5) 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. We will support members of the congregation and the local community in campaigning on issues relating to the Climate Emergency.

- 6) As the church's energy use is arguably its greatest environmental issue, we will seek to reduce the greenhouse gas emissions of the electricity and gas used in Church and Centre premises.
- 7) We will encourage our staff and congregations wherever possible, to use forms of transport to work, meetings etc. which have minimum or reduced environmental impact.
- 8) We will seek ways to reduce material consumption and the impact of our activities on the environment by wherever possible:
 - serving locally produced food where possible and especially in our Centre projects
 - minimising the amount of red meat and dairy products served
 - using email rather than sending hard copies
 - using recycled paper
 - reusing/ repairing items
 - using low environmental impact cleaning materials
 - discouraging the use of plastic
 - avoiding using water unnecessarily
 - seeking to encourage bio-diversity within our grounds
- 9) We will work towards becoming an 'Eco-Church'

This policy will be reviewed every three years in the light of developments. Next review date January 2022.

St Mary's PCC

November 2019