**Diocesan Environment and Climate Change Policy**

“The earth is the Lord’s, and everything in it,  
    the world, and all who live in it;”

Psalm 24:1 (NIV)

**Our Calling**

*“To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth”*The Fifth Mark of Mission

*“We are all called to care for the earth and have a responsibility to live creatively and sustainably in a world of finite resources”* Lambeth Declaration 2015

**Our Belief**

We recognise from Scripture that God delights in His creation, where all things are in relationship with each other and with Him

*And seek to proclaim and celebrate this good news of the Kingdom of God*

We acknowledge that our selfish human behaviour has ruptured that good relationship, affecting the earth and all its creatures

*And seek to respond in repentance, and in loving service to all*

We rejoice that God redeems creation and humankind through the incarnation, cross and resurrection of Jesus Christ

*And seek to live simply and to act justly in obedience to Christ*

We accept our God-given duty of care for creation and all life

*And seek to show this care as part of the church’s mission and prophetic witness*

We believe we are called to both faith and action

*And seek the grace of the Holy Spirit and the love of Christ our hope*

**Our Decision**

In March 2020, the diocese declared a climate and ecological emergency.

We decided to aim for net zero carbon emissions by 2030.

Over the next ten years, we will ensure that creation care is central to all our worship, thinking, actions and policies.

**Our Action**

Working to a clear diocesan plan for enhancing creation care throughout the diocese, **we will seek to**:

**Change** things within our direct control

* Achieve net-zero carbon emissions\* as far as possible across all our activities \*See Appendix
* Ensure that creation care is fully considered in decisions regarding (a) church buildings and churchyards, (b) all other land and property including new provision
* Seek to reduce the impact of travel for meetings, attendance at services and for tourism-related activities
* Adopt a creation-centric approach to investment management
* Embed creation care within the teaching of our churches and missional activities
* Become an Eco Diocese

**Challenge** PCCs, school governing bodies, multi-academy trust boards, Diocesan bodies, and individuals to achieve similar change

**Educate** diocesan bodies, PCCs, schools, church members and young people in creation care and equip them to take both practical and prophetic action, while recognising that many individuals are already engaged in this issue

**Learn** from theology and science, and from groups within and beyond the faith community, and respond accordingly

**Cooperate** locally with other Christian denominations, other bodies, and people of peace

**Our Way Forward**

We acknowledge that addressing the current climate and ecological emergency is central to all aspects of our mission and is inherent to all five marks of mission.

This policy is intended to inform a core aspect of diocesan thought and action over the next decade.

* Resourcing this new work is essential and to support its implementation we will: Appoint a new Diocesan Environmental Strategy Group, serviced by Ministry for Mission and the Diocesan Board of Education.
* Seek to appoint a half-time officer for three years to work directly with parishes, prioritising actions that reduce carbon and operating costs
* Annually produce a rolling three-year action plan setting out detailed actions. This will be revised annually by the Strategy Group in the light of regular progress reporting and be presented to Bishops Council and Diocesan Synod and the Bishop of Taunton, as lead Bishop for education, for endorsement

As we take these and other steps, we will remember to celebrate the Creator and the wonder of His creation, and will affirm both small and greater successes  
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*Presented to Diocesan Synod on 18.11.20* On being put to a vote, the Synod resolved:

1. To approve and adopt the draft Diocesan Environment and Climate Change Policy, as amended, and to review it at our Autumn Synod in 2023.
2. To commend the direction of travel of the rolling 3-year action plan and look forward to the annual update at our Autumn Synod in 2021.

**\*APPENDIX ON EMISSIONS**

**WHAT WILL WE NEED TO MEASURE AS A DIOCESE UP TO 2030**

Edited from the agreed Church of England definition of “in scope” measurements towards

Net Zero 2030 (Agreed 25th September 2020, to be ratified by the next General Synod)

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| 1. The energy use of our buildings:    * Gas, oil, or other fuel use |
| Electricity purchased (no matter the source it is purchased from — renewable electricity purchased is accounted for separately)   * For the following buildings:   + Churches, including church halls and ancillary buildings. (This includes non- parochial churches, BMOs and others if they have their own utility supplies. Tenants should be excluded if possible)   + Cathedrals   + Schools (only Voluntary Aided & Diocesan Academy Trusts)   + Clergy housing and bishop’s housing wholly owned by the Church (based on EPC grades and average reasonable use, not actual usage |
| * Church bodies’ offices including the diocesan and bishops’ offices * Peculiars, only if they come under faculty jurisdiction * Other diocesan property, including common parts of tenanted properties |
| * A choice can be made about including or excluding the “well to tank” and “transmission and distribution” factors involved in getting energy to the building. |
| Here, it is proposed to **include** them. |
| 2. The petrol / diesel we use for work-related travel (e.g. reimbursable staff and volunteer travel including DAC members; reimbursable clergy and ordinand travel, staff and clergy making reimbursable flights for work or ministry). |
| *These are standard Greenhouse Gas reporting definitions called “Scope 1” and “Scope 2“emissions, & in addition some small elements of Scope 3 which are operationally simpler to include now.* |