

# Church St Helens Environmental Policy



(Taken from the A Rocha Eco Church Framework <https://ecochurch.arocha.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/Detailed-Environmental-Policy-and-Action-Plan-Example-11.20.pdf>)

## Policy Statements

We recognise the climate and nature crises and the fundamental injustice these represent, especially for the world's poorest and most vulnerable people.

We affirm that:

- Creation care and action to address environmental crises are integral to Christian faith, life and worship.
- We are called to manage our land, buildings, and resources in a way that reflects God's love for all creation.
- Our actions must reflect our concern locally, nationally, and globally, particularly in addressing climate injustice.
- Caring for creation is an act of worship and an expression of our discipleship.

## Commitment

At Church St Helens a Church of England congregation, we align with the General Synod's resolution (Feb 2020) to:

Work to achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2030

To support this:

- We have committed to following our Net Zero Action Plan, which is to be reviewed regularly.
- We will measure and reduce our carbon footprint each year.
- We will seek to honour the Fifth Mark of Mission:
  - *To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth.*

## Our principles and values

### God created the world and everything in it.

God has created an awesome and majestic cosmos to bring him praise and glory. We are but one part of his created order. Jesus has redeemed the whole earth through his death and resurrection. We have a special responsibility to care for the Earth so that human life and all God's creatures may be sustained in harmony.

*In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth (Genesis 1:1, NIV).*

**Our church is committed to minimising our negative impact on the environment.**

As Christians it is our responsibility to care for creation, using resources wisely so that climate change is mitigated, biodiversity protected or enhanced, finite resources conserved, and waste and pollution minimised.

*Creator of the heavens, who stretches them out, who spreads out the earth with all that springs from it, who gives breath to its people, and life to those who walk on it... (Isaiah 42:5, NIV).*

### **Seeking climate justice is part of Christian discipleship and practice.**

Following Christ's teachings means loving our global neighbours and caring for creation. The climate crisis both reflects and feeds off inequality, exploitation and greed: often the communities who are suffering the most from its effects, particularly in the Global South, are those who have done the least to cause it. We will aim to act in accordance with this understanding, making changes to improve our sustainability and to show solidarity with those across the world who are suffering in this crisis.

*What does the Lord require of you? To act justly, to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God (Micah 6:8, NIV).*

## **Our Commitments**

### **Worship and Teaching**

We will communicate our biblical understanding of responsibility to God for all that is entrusted to us through creation, making the links between poverty, wealth and environmental degradation. We will strive to equip leadership, staff, volunteers and church members with the skills, knowledge and confidence to respond to this responsibility.

### **Buildings and Energy**

We recognise the most important environmental impact will be an ongoing reduction of our carbon emissions. We will seek to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions as much as we can, working toward net zero carbon.

### **Land and Nature**

We will respond to the nature crisis and loss of biodiversity through practical action, collaboration and campaigning.

### **Community and Global Engagement**

We will highlight and raise awareness that the climate and nature crises affect the poorest first and worst so our responsibility is to them and the places they live, wherever they are in the world, to promote justice for people and nature.

### **Lifestyle**

We recognise that we have an impact on the world through the choices available to us and our use of money and resources. We will strive to support our church family and wider community in bringing about positive change and care for God's Earth. We will seek to encourage our church community and beyond to live gently on the Earth and be prepared to challenge systemic injustice. Our church has a strategy or plan to promote ethical and environmentally aware consumption patterns by individuals and households.