



# The Parish of Horndon, Orsett and Bulphan

## Environmental Policy and action plan

This policy was reviewed and agreed at a PCC meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> May 2026

This policy will be reviewed at least every two years.

Next review date is May 2028

Name of eco lead person: Lynda Robertson, Chair of Ecology and Social Justice Group

### Policy statements

- We recognise the climate and nature crises and the fundamental injustice these represent.
- We recognise and teach that creation care and action to address the climate and nature crises are integral to Christian faith, life and worship.
- We recognise the need to manage our land for nature.
- We recognise that we need to take action locally, nationally and globally to tackle climate injustice.
- We recognise that integrating creation care into our daily lives is an act of worship and obedience to God as we grow in discipleship.

### Denominational commitment

As a member of the Church of England, we recognise the commitment made by the General Synod in February 2020 for the whole of the Church of England to achieve net zero carbon by 2030, we have committed to reduce our own carbon footprint.

### 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.

#### **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.

#### **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.

## 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's ethos is to promote ethical and environmentally aware consumption patterns by individuals and households.

## Application

We are committed to applying these principles in the following areas:

### Worship and Teaching

- **Awareness**
  - The Incumbent, PCC, volunteers and church members will be made aware of this policy and it will be accessible on our website.
  - This policy will be regularly reviewed at PCC meetings, communicated and embedded in work plans.
- **Skilled and equipped**
  - We will offer Eco Group members, PCC members and church members the opportunity to complete Carbon Literacy training or other relevant topics as interest is shown.
  - We will offer opportunities for more in-depth engagement with environmental issues through our sermon series and small-group studies.

## Buildings and Energy

- **Energy use**
  - We will assess our energy use annually, using [Climate Stewards](#) 360°carbon calculator measurement tool.
  - We will set annual carbon reduction targets and review our progress annually.
  - We will monitor our water use, where possible.
  - We recognise that digital data has a footprint and we will encourage regular digital clean-ups.
  - We are committed to investigating how to offset our carbon footprint with [Climate Stewards](#).
- **Travel**
  - We are committed to minimising unnecessary travel and encouraging use of the least polluting means of transport.
- **Fabric**
  - Through the annual fabric review and quinquennial review, we will monitor the upkeep of the building, ensure repairs are undertaken promptly and continually review ways in which we can improve.
- **Operations**
  - We will regularly review our operations plan (heating protocol, lighting procedures, etc.) to ensure energy efficiency.
- **Climate resilience**
  - We will seek to be a 'warm space' and 'cool space' during the winter and summer as the need arises.
  - We will develop a climate resilience plan.
- **Procurement**
  - We recognise that the decisions we make in what we consume for church life (such as materials, products, equipment and consumables) have an impact on the environment.
  - We will develop an Ethical Procurement Policy which sets out that our procurement decisions will minimise negative environmental impacts, where feasible, and will aim to encourage positive action by suppliers and partners. Strong preference will be given to suppliers who take environmental responsibility seriously.
  - We will use recycled paper wherever feasible and otherwise use paper derived from sustainably managed forests.
  - We will avoid the purchase of products and packaging that use non-recyclable and non-biodegradable materials where possible.
- **Lettings**
  - Our Lettings policy includes the clause: *As an Eco Church we encourage all who use the premises to be as environmentally friendly as possible. You are more than welcome to use our plates and cutlery for your event, or to bring your own reusable items. If using disposable items (plates, cutlery, etc.), we encourage you to purchase biodegradable items that can be placed in a compost bin after use and to recycle as much as possible of food packaging materials.*

## Land and Nature

- **Church land**

- We will have a separate Land Management Policy which details our management of our churchyards, cemetery and allotments.

## Community and Global Engagement

- **Advocacy and action**

- We will raise awareness of, and encourage participation in, taking action as a means to loving our neighbour and caring for creation.
- We will seek ways to support and campaign on environmental issues as a whole church.
- We will collaborate with, and encourage awareness of, local environmental groups and other churches to share resources and best practices.
- We will seek to provide opportunities for marginalised groups in our community to have access to nature.
- We will raise awareness about ethical finance.

- **Accreditation**

- We will continue to be a Fairtrade Place of Worship.

- **Food and drink**

- We will opt for Fairtrade tea, coffee and sugar when purchasing for the church (see more detail in Ethical Purchasing Policy to be written).
- We will encourage the practical application of [Green Christian's LOAF principles](#) - local, organic, animal-friendly and fairly traded where possible.

- **Sustainable transport**

- We will encourage the use of sustainable forms of transport.

- **Waste**

- We are committed to reducing waste, re-using and recycling waste as far as practically possible.
- We will offer recycling of 'difficult' items to the wider community.

- **Finance**

- We are committed to donating towards charities that care for the environment.
- We will bank with an ethical bank.
- We will not knowingly invest in or deal with companies or organisations whose activities significantly conflict with our own environmental policy.
- We will work with financial institutions that make a positive difference if the opportunity arises.

- **Communication and promotion of Eco Church**

- We will respond to enquiries and seek to promote Eco Church locally.
- We will participate in denominational and other events to promote Eco Church and care for the environment.

## Lifestyle

- **Sustainable lifestyle**
  - We will conduct a biennial 'Eco survey' of our church members to enable us to share practical lifestyle actions that can be taken. Information will be shared via newsletters and social media.
  - Throughout the year we share information, stories and examples of lifestyle action to encourage individual members of our congregations to take actions in their personal lives to care for God's creation
  - We will promote and encourage our church members to undertake personal auditing of individual and household carbon footprints.

## Implementation and monitoring

- Our Ecology and Social Justice Action Group will report **progress and updates** from the Action Plan to the PCC.
- The Action Group will **review the targets and revise** the Action Plan annually.
- The PCC will ensure **communication** with the church membership.
- This policy document will be **fully reviewed** every two years or earlier as needed.

## Action Plan

Category	Action point	Tasks	Person(s) responsible	Date to achieve
<b>Worship and Teaching</b>	<i>Carbon Literacy training</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Offer Eco Group members, PCC members and church members the opportunity to complete Carbon Literacy training</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lynda R</li> </ul>	
<b>Buildings and Energy</b>	<i>Reduce carbon</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• assess our energy use annually, using <a href="#">Climate Stewards</a> 360°carbon calculator measurement tool.</li> <li>• Investigate possibility to amend heating programme weekly to correspond to building use</li> <li>• investigate how to offset our carbon footprint with <a href="#">Climate Stewards</a></li> <li>• develop an Ethical Procurement Policy</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lynda R</li> </ul>	
<b>Land and Nature</b>	<i>Land Management Plan</i>	<i>Create a LMP for the parish</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lynda with church wardens</li> </ul>	
<b>Community and Global Engagement</b>	<i>Target 25</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop a plan for further action using Target 25</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Janet Mc</li> </ul>	
	<i>Ethical Purchasing Policy</i>	<i>To be written</i>	Lynda R	
<b>Lifestyle</b>	<i>Encourage personal action to care for God's creation</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encourage completion of personal 360°carbon footprint</li> <li>• Hold a talk on ethical finance during Great Big Green Week</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lynda R</li> <li>• Bev?</li> </ul>	