

Environmental Policy

St Christophers Church, Springfield, Birmingham

We affirm these elements of our faith:

- Through Christ, 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.

Aim:

As a local church, we aim to take the practical steps necessary to realise the Fifth Mark of Mission, which is "to strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and to sustain the life of the earth".

Objective:

We will take environmental concerns into account in all aspects of our church life, including our worship, teaching, mission, pastoral, youth and children's work, training, administration, charitable giving, and use of our buildings and land.

Governance and Framework:

To achieve this the PPC will use the national Eco Church framework to identify and report action. We are already a 'Silver' Eco Church and will work towards achieving and maintaining a 'Gold' award.

The PCC will appoint annually an Eco Church champion. Their role externally will be to be the Parish Environmental Champion and attend and share good practice with the Deanery and Diocese good practice networks. Internally their role will be to Chair an annual group of 2-3 members of the Church to help progress any agreed actions or priorities for the year and report progress to the PPC and wider Church on at least an annual basis, including any updates to the Church website and the Annual report for the AGM.

Annual Action Plan

This policy will be implemented by an annual action plan against the 5 Eco Church categories and will include:

Worship and Teaching

- Incorporating care for the environment within our teaching, worship, prayer for all ages within our congregation.

Buildings and Energy

- Working to reduce our energy use and switching to more environmental sources
- Providing fair trade, high plant based content food, supporting local suppliers, and reducing waste and supporting the recycling of the rest
- Providing facilities for those who wish to cycle, walk, or car share

Land and Nature

- Working to use our land to enhance nature and the appreciation and access to it
- Organising walks and trips for our congregation to explore nature locally

Lifestyle

- Encouraging our congregation as part of their discipleship journey to adopt more sustainable lifestyles, guided by their circumstances and the holy spirit.

Community and global engagement

- Using our mission budget to support Church environmental improvements and Christian environmental and relief charities providing creation care or supporting those who are adversely affected by climate change as part of the 'fifth mark of mission'.
- Support our charity the Springfield Project to help our community with a range of schemes that include environmental outcomes such as 'place of welcome', 'growing up green', 'child friendly neighbourhood', 'environmental arts events' and 'Building Greener Communities' project.

Approved by the PCC meeting on 23.6.25

This policy will be reviewed every three years in light of developments.

Next review date: 23.6.28

ANNEX

Church of England

Useful Resources Diocese of Birmingham Environment webpages

<https://www.cofebirmingham.com/everyday-faith/caring-for-the-environment/>

Church of England National Environment Programme

<https://www.churchofengland.org/about/environment-and-climate-change>

Links and Christian Organisations

A Rocha <https://ecochurch.arocha.org.uk/>

Churches Together in Britain and Ireland environment <https://ctbi.org.uk/environment-churchesand-christian-organisations/>

Operation Noah <http://operationnoah.org/>

Green Christian www.greenchristian.org.uk/

Christian Aid <https://www.christianaid.org.uk/>

Tearfund <https://www.tearfund.org/>

Buildings & Land

Church Care <https://www.churchofengland.org/resources/churchcare>

Caring for God's Acre, churchyard care www.caringforgodsacre.org.uk/

Change Pray and Fast for the Climate www.prayandfastfortheclimate.org.uk/

Climate Emergency Toolkit for churches <https://www.climateemergencytoolkit.com/>

Climate Stewards www.climatestewards.org

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