

Otley Parish Church Environmental Policy

This policy is underpinned by these elements of our faith:

- Through Christ, God has created an awesome and majestic cosmos bringing 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 recognise that 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 have a ministry and mission of care for Christ's creation, not only for our own property, but also through our congregation and in our community, which glorifies God and brings Christ's kingdom in our parish.

As a church we aim to fulfil all the dimensions of mission identified by the Church of England, including:

- transform unjust structures of society, challenge violence of every kind and pursue peace and reconciliation.
- strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth.

Objective

As a church community, we will take environmental concerns into account in our mission, worship, study, education, training, pastoral, administrative and other projects and programmes.

Actions

1. We will include our concern for sustainability in our worship and teaching.
2. The PCC will request a report annually on our church's carbon footprint.
3. Our 'Otley Parish Church Carbon Net Zero working group' is working with surveyors, our architect and energy use experts to develop a development plan for our properties to become a net zero church by 2030, in line with the Church of England's climate ambition. We will continue to support their work and await final recommendations.
4. We will continue to address the 'quick wins' identified in our initial review of the properties to reduce our energy consumption prior to undertaking the major tasks associated with the roof and the heating system (OPC Roadmap to Net Zero 2023 published November 2023).
5. We will consider how our church is vulnerable to extreme weather from climate change and develop a climate resilience plan. For example, upgrading rainwater goods to cope with intense rainfall, tree planting to provide shading in heatwaves, hedges for strong wind protection, having a flood plan.
6. 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.
7. We will encourage our staff and congregation to reduce unnecessary travel using online communication, as appropriate. We will encourage forms of transport to work, meetings etc. which have minimum or reduced environmental impact – e.g. walk, cycle, public transport, car sharing or electric vehicles.

8. We will seek ways to reduce material consumption and the impact of our activities on the environment by, wherever possible:
 - using email rather than sending hard copies
 - using recycled paper
 - reusing/ repairing items
 - using low environmental impact cleaning materials.
9. We will avoid using water unnecessarily, install water meters where appropriate, check for leakages, fit water minimising systems to taps and cisterns wherever practicable.
10. We will assess our land and property for wildlife and manage them to conserve biodiversity.
11. We will encourage individual members of our congregations to take actions in their personal lives to complement and supplement these actions of the church community.
12. We will participate in the Eco Church programme.

Adopted by PCC on 14/10/2024

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

Next review date: October 2027