

DIOCESAN ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY





‘SUSTAIN AND RENEW THE LIFE OF THE EARTH’

Our Mission

That the church in the diocese and every member should ‘*strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and **sustain and renew the life of the earth***’ (5th strand of Mission of Anglican Communion).





Our Belief

We believe in God the Father, maker of Heaven and Earth; as a consequence:

-  We believe in proclaiming hope through the biblical vision of Creation as sustained by God the Father, redeemed by Christ and renewed by the Holy Spirit.
-  We believe in faithful discipleship by living responsibly as stewards to whom God has entrusted the care and conservation of the earth.
-  We believe in celebrating the wonder of Creation and appreciating the interdependence of humanity with all the creatures and ecosystems of the earth.
-  We believe in responding to the social injustice created by environmental concerns including climate change. We realise that such injustice is visited upon many who have contributed least to the greenhouse gases resulting from the lifestyles of the few. We grieve that part of the cost of an indulgent use of carbon releasing energy in consuming the Earth’s resources is in the lost livelihoods and lives of some of the World’s poorest citizens.





Our Vision

To have every church in the diocese take a lead so that every Christian in their discipleship would work for a sustainable society in a sustainable world, by:

-  Affirming the dignity of the whole Creation, including the rights and responsibilities of all people and future generations.
-  Ensuring the responsible use and recycling of natural resources.
-  Campaigning for social, environmental and economic reform which will lead to carbon neutral lifestyles.
-  Transforming their lifestyle through significantly reducing what they consume, and then re-using what can and recycling what cannot be re-used.

Our Commitment

This Diocesan Synod therefore calls every church and member in the Diocese to be committed:

-  To celebrate God’s creation with the hope of the gospel of Christ.
-  To accept that acting ‘*to safeguard the integrity of creation and **sustain and renew the life of the earth***’ is integral to Christian mission and discipleship, and calls us to work with community partners, such as Local Strategic Partnerships and Councils, to bring about greener and more sustainable lifestyles to the glory of God.
-  To take account of the environmental impact and, with great urgency, significantly reduce the greenhouse gas emissions and carbon footprint of all their current and future activity.
-  Urgently to develop an environmental policy or action plan with those who serve with them in their life and ministry within the parishes and the diocese.

Our Prayer

*Almighty God,
Give us reverence for all creation,
And respect for every person,
That we may mirror your likeness
In Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*
(Additional Collect for 2nd Sunday before Lent)