

CHRIST CHURCH, IPSWICH

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

The context

Christ Church recognises the urgency of the climate and nature crises. We believe in our Christian responsibility to care for creation and will take the practical steps necessary to strive towards safeguarding the life of the Earth in our church life and as individuals.

As a member of the Baptist Union and the United Reformed Church, we acknowledge the commitment made by both denominations to achieve Net Zero in our church life, the URC by 2030 and the BU by 2035. In line with these commitments, we will work towards reducing our carbon footprint year on year.

We accept our responsibility to use resources wisely so that climate change is mitigated, biodiversity protected, finite resources conserved and waste and pollution minimised. We will work with the A Rocha Eco-Church programme to guide and develop our practical actions.

Worship and Teaching

Care for creation will be embedded in the life of Christ Church, in our worship, children's work and study. We will communicate our understanding of our responsibility for all that is entrusted to us in creation, making the links between damage to the environment and social and global injustices.

Buildings and Energy

We recognise our most important environmental impact will be an ongoing reduction in our carbon emissions. We will seek to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions, working towards meeting our energy needs from renewable sources and reaching net zero carbon by 2035 at the latest. We will endeavour to make environmentally positive choices in all aspects of our work, including using eco-friendly products, reducing waste, improving energy efficiency, and encouraging environmental awareness among all users of our buildings.

Land and Nature

We commit to an environmentally friendly approach to our church grounds, managing our land as far as is practicable to be kind to nature and encourage bio-diversity.

Community and Global Engagement

We will engage with organisations and with the political process, locally, nationally and globally, in addressing the climate crisis. Recognising the disproportionate impact the changing climate has on the poorest in the world, we will support charities and campaigns which address this injustice.

Lifestyle

We will actively encourage individual members of our congregation to examine their own lifestyle and to take actions in their personal lives, including assessing their own carbon footprint, reducing their use of fossil fuels, considering how they travel and the food choices they make. We will promote re-use, recycling and repair and the avoidance of waste.