



## Diocese of Bristol Environment and Climate Justice Policy

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### THEOLOGICAL FOUNDATION

The Diocese of Bristol affirms that stewardship of God's creation, a just sharing of resources, and concern for the earth are fundamental biblical prerogatives, central to Christian mission and discipleship.

We acknowledge in humility and penitence the serious damage we are doing to creation and the urgent need for repentance, lament, sacrificial change and new ways of living.

We commit ourselves to meaningful action, taking Jesus as our example, who made peace by the shedding of his blood, and whose resurrection is the first fruits of a new creation, and we look forward to the day when all creation will be redeemed and reconciled to God. We note that we share this commitment with many others in our society and commit to creating connections with others in developing our response to this global challenge.

It is in this spirit, and noting the integral nature of the five marks of mission, that this policy is written.

### CONTEXT

We are facing an urgent environment crisis which risks jeopardising life on earth for future generations and further damaging the eco-systems of the natural world.

The impact of humans on the planet is reducing biodiversity, changing the climate, and polluting the earth.

Around the world, climate change is affecting food security, creating social vulnerability, disrupting peace and security and causing the mass movement of populations.

While steps are being taken to tackle the problems, much more needs to be done, and more urgently.

## **POLICY STATEMENT**

Across the Diocese of Bristol, we commit to taking a lead, in partnership with others, to change the impact of humans on the planet, making creation care an integral part of our mission and discipleship.

## **COMMITMENTS**

We commit to:

1. Embedding creation care within our **worship, teaching and discipleship** work
2. Becoming **sustainable consumers**, limiting our waste, and reducing our carbon footprint
3. Encouraging **biodiversity** and using **land sustainably**
4. Increasing our use of **renewable energy** sources and ensuring **energy efficient buildings**
5. Prioritising environmental issues in our **financial decision-making**
6. **Working with a range of communities** on environmental issues, including participating in national and global campaigns
7. Proactively **recording, celebrating and championing** environmental initiatives

Approved by Bristol Diocesan Synod on 16 November 2019

## **IMPLICATIONS**

As a result of the Diocesan Synod's adoption of this policy, the Bristol Diocesan Board of Finance will follow it in its decision-making and activity.

This will affect multiple aspects of the work at diocesan level and the Diocesan Environmental Group will monitor and support its implementation reporting to the Bishop's Council annually and Diocesan Synod in each triennium.

This policy is recommended to PCCs and other bodies in the Diocese for them to adopt and follow. It also can be used to inform the lives of individual Christians and households.

Action is underway to support this policy (see Appendix). A 12 month action plan will be agreed in early 2020 in the light of the goals set by the Diocesan Synod in debating a climate emergency and will be renewed annually.