

"And God said .. It was so .. It was good".

Genesis proclaims the goodness of the Creation, and the work of the Creator.

"The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it" (Ps 24:1).

Modern science knows now how intricate are the eco-systems, bio-spheres, and connections which enable life to flourish. We see too many places where human action has scarred and destroyed. While this is not new, the levels of destruction are now increasing exponentially.

## Church for a Different World – Responding to the environmental crisis

**Purpose:** As a diocese, as churches and as Christians we are called to celebrate the gift of Creation, to honour the Creator in our stewardship of this gift, and to stand against all that destroys and damages the earth and its future.

**Proclaiming and Prophetic:** This involves speaking up and speaking out; doing and working for change; it will challenge as well as affirm; there is now an urgency, as human-created global warming, mass use of non-degrading plastics, and over-use of raw materials have all contributed to a real crisis point.

**Partnerships:** This is not for the Diocese alone. Wherever possible we should partner with those of goodwill, working with them, learning from them, contributing to shared work. As we seek the good of the city, of the land, of the world, we look for collaboration and shared commitment.

## We affirm the Five Marks of Mission:

- 1. To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom:** we will celebrate the gift of Creation, the gift of a generous and holy God, a sign of God's goodness and presence.
- 2. To teach, baptise and nurture new believers:** we will promote stewardship of Creation and its resources as an essential component of our living as Jesus' disciples.
- 3. To respond to human need by loving service:** we will encourage a way of living and the ordering of community life, such that care for the land and all its creatures is to the fore, and in response to problems such as climate disruption, water scarcity, flooding and habitat destruction which impact on the world and the lives of many.
- 4. To seek to transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and to pursue peace and reconciliation:** we will value the 'free' nature of environmental resources and challenge the economic structures that take advantage of this at Creation's expense.
- 5. To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth:** we commit to reducing the Diocese's own environmental impact through reducing the carbon and energy footprint of buildings, churches, vicarages, schools and offices. We commit to the best use of church land, church-yards, grave-yards, grounds etc, in encouraging bio-diversity.

## We commit to:

- ◆ proclaim God's great love for the whole of Creation by incorporating wider environmental concerns into theological and liturgical life.
- ◆ understand and manage how diocesan buildings, land and activities impact on the environment.
- ◆ support the Church of England Environment Strategy and team in their target of reducing the whole of the C of E's carbon emissions by 80% by 2050, with an interim target of 42% by 2020.
- ◆ Work with local and national partners for the betterment of our land and world.
- ◆ provide examples, materials and encouragement to church members and to parishes to empower them to engage with broader aspects of their environmental and ethical practice.

