



Caring for God's creation

Together, as individuals, parishes and a Diocese we will Care for God's Creation, taking action and using our resources, gifts, time and prayers to..

- 1. Cultivating a shared Christian vision** for God's creation and our call to steward, nurture and protect it, in Jesus' name, for the good of everyone, everywhere;
- 2. Promote responsible consumption & behaviour** as individuals and churches;
- 3. Work together to challenge environmental indifference and injustice.**





'As people of faith, we don't just state our beliefs - we live them out. One belief is that we find purpose and joy in loving our neighbours. Another is that we are charged by our creator with taking good care of his creation... Reducing the causes of climate change is essential to the life of faith. It is a way to love our neighbour and to steward the gift of creation.'

Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury



A new area of work, the Caring for God's Creation priority emphasises growing our understanding, taking action and, raising our voice to address environmental exploitation, and reflects the biblical call to be people of faith and action (James 2:18).

We describe these three elements of mission **as raising awareness, responding** through changing behaviour and action and **reforming** by encouraging wider change. Together they shape the vision of our work to **Care for God's Creation**, which we will begin to do by:

- 1. Cultivating a shared Christian vision** for God's creation and our call to steward, nurture and protect it, in Jesus' name, for the good of everyone, everywhere;
- 2. Promoting responsible consumption** and behaviour as **individuals and churches**; and
- 3. Working together to challenge environmental indifference and injustice.**

Shaped by the reflections & prayers of our Diocese through the Waymark process, the five marks of mission and the vision of the national church to become carbon net zero by 2030, the **Caring for God's Creation** initiative will involve learning together, personal and organisational change, and collaborating together and with other stakeholders to generate wider, positive changes in policy and behaviour.

As a Diocese we will be investing in resources to provide models, advice and training, in order to resource and create space for local initiative and change. 2021-2026 is intended to be the beginning of a new phase whereby we learn and act together, and join together with others in order to produce change.

In order to get Care for God's Creation off the ground we will..

- Develop new **online resources** to envision, share stories and offer models to our churches, schools and households;
- Embed Care for Creation in **deanery plans** and the parish prioritisation process;
- **Facilitate debate**, learning and conversation among our churches and the wider community;
- Model best practice by moving Cuthbert House towards being Carbon Net;
- Become an **Eco Diocese**, supporting as many churches as we can to become **Eco Churches**;
- Create training and networking opportunities to catalyse local change and provide staffing to support churches to engage in Care for God's Creation and find ways to generate local change.

We will also:

- Engage with the **Archbishops Commission** to explore opportunities for sustainable development and look for ways to collaborate with other denominations and local community partners to influence policy positively.
- Work to become more conscious of how we use resources, acting together as Deaneries, keeping sight of the international implications (particularly for the world's poorest) renewing our commitment to **fairtrade** and finding ways to make this relevant to all our communities locally will all be important elements of this.

As new work this represents an exciting and, to some degree, unknown opportunity which will require lots of prayer, honesty, listening and faith as well as providing significant opportunities for everyone to be involved as we engage with our communities in an issue that matters to all of us, and that reflects **God's concern** for our world and his creation.