



Environmental Policy

Committed to Caring for Creation

Document history

Version	Date	Author/Editor	Approved by
1.1	15JUL25	Christine Bartlett	PCC (reviewed, no changes)
1.0	05MAR24	Christine Bartlett	PCC

Next review date: 15th July 2028

Issued by:

St Barnabas: the parish church for Emmer Green and Caversham Park
Grove Road, Emmer Green, RG4 8RA
www.saintbarnabas.org.uk
vicar@saintbarnabas.org.uk
0118 947 5214
Registered charity no. 1164759

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1 Vision

At St Barnabas Church we aim to:

1. show our love of God and neighbour through seeking to understand more fully the world and our calling within it
2. care for our buildings and land in environmentally friendly ways
3. transform our activities to make them just and sustainable
4. advocate for creation care and environmental justice in our local, national and global communities
5. become a net zero carbon church by 2035 in line with the commitment by the Diocese of Oxford

2 Mission

As a church community we will incorporate care for creation in our mission, worship, study, education, training, pastoral, administrative and other projects and programmes.

3 Responsibility

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is responsible for implementing this policy, but everyone within the church has a role to play to ensure its aims are met.

4 Actions

1. Worship, Teaching and Mission: We will regularly incorporate the importance of care for creation in our worship, prayer, teaching and mission. We will encourage church members to consider their personal impact on the environment in their daily lives.
2. Environmental Champion: The appointed person will bring relevant environmental issues and concerns to the PCC on a regular basis.
3. Eco Church: We will seek appropriate information from the Christian environmental group A Rocha and keep up to date with current thinking. We will participate in the A Rocha Eco church scheme and seek to progress through the awards. We also hope to support the work of A Rocha financially and in prayer.
4. Energy Audit: We will regularly monitor the energy use of the church and the hall identifying the most significant issues and impacts which should be addressed. We will make and implement plans to tackle them recognising that some additional costs may be incurred to minimise environmental impacts.
5. Future Building/Refurbishment Projects: In the event of the need to undertake a building/refurbishment project we would ensure best practise in sustainable building design, construction and operation.

6. Energy Use: We will minimise our energy and water use as far as is practicably possible and we will encourage all users of the church and hall to minimise resource use.
7. Outdoor Spaces: We will continue to encourage wildlife in our outdoor spaces.
8. Events and Hospitality: We will encourage all those running events to follow the principles outlined in this policy and with regard to energy use, travel, resources used, food/drinks offered.
9. Fairtrade: We will commit to becoming and being a Fairtrade church
10. Community and Global Engagement: We will work with others in the local community to identify environmental issues which should be addressed in our area and help develop actions to tackle them. We will advocate for climate justice nationally and globally as well as locally.
11. Mission Giving: We will financially support an organisation that is working to care for the environment or to support those who are adversely affected by climate change

This policy is to be brought to the attention of all employees, volunteers and contractors

5 Useful resources

Diocese of Oxford Environment Action www.oxford.anglican.org/environmentalaction.php

Eco Church-A Rocha www.arocha.org.uk

Fairtrade Foundation www.fairtrade.org.uk

Green Christian www.greenchristian.org.uk

Reading Climate Action Network www.readingcan.org.uk

Greater Reading Environmental Network www.gren.org.uk