



ST JAMES'S CHURCH, PICCADILLY
Environment Policy
(for Staff Handbook)

1 Introduction

1.1 At St James's we:

- affirm that love for the earth is a gospel imperative
- embrace the Fifth Mark of Mission (Anglican Consultative Council, Cardiff, 1990) 'to strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth'
- assert with Pope Francis (Laudato Si 159) that 'nature cannot be regarded as something separate from ourselves or as a mere setting in which we live. We are part of nature, included in it and thus in constant interaction with it.' This implies that our approach is relational as well as responsible.

1.2 We recognise that we are now living in a new geological age, increasingly called 'The Anthropocene'. This new epoch is characterised by the significant global impact of human activity on Earth's geology and ecosystems. This is unique in the history of planet Earth and calls for unprecedented action to prevent further damage to our home and its web of life, and to mitigate the effects of previous harmful activity. In accord with London Diocesan policy, we acknowledge that 'living in the UK and the developed world, we have made a greater contribution than other parts of the world to greenhouse gas emissions, and to damaging environmental impacts from these and other causes. We acknowledge that it is unjust that the people of many of those places are the very ones who must suffer the adverse consequences. We accept responsibility to do our utmost to soften these impacts and the suffering which they cause.'

1.3 We acknowledge that much of the action required to animate 1.1 and 1.2 will require cultural change, awareness-raising, and an educational approach. We celebrate and support Christian leadership in this area:

- Patriarch Bartholomew has widely and repeatedly proclaimed that the environment is not a political or technological issue but a religious and spiritual challenge, and that climate change is an existential crisis for the planet, for its resources and species, including humankind.
- 'The ecological conversion needed to bring about lasting change is also a community conversion' (Laudato Si 129).
- 'this work will require a tectonic shift in the Christian mind' (Rowan Williams, Eco Church launch)

We affirm that God's generous, disruptive love is for humankind and all creation. We are committed to exploring new approaches through our communal Christian life, marked by joyous celebration, forgiveness, doubting and discernment, and sustained by friendship and prayer.

- 1.4 This policy covers all areas of activity at St James's. In particular the Sustainability, Biodiversity and Procurement policies are all informed by the content and tenor of this policy, and should be read in conjunction with it.

2 Policy Objectives

- 2.1 Use the Eco Church Award Scheme to structure our environmentally and ethically focussed activities, and to achieve Gold award by the end of 2016.
- 2.2 Develop wide-ranging engagement, communication and education strategies to ensure the whole community is able to contribute.
- 2.3 Participate fully in the Shrinking the Footprint campaign which aims to reduce the Church of England's emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases by 42% by 2020 and 80% by 2050 based on 2005 levels.
- 2.4 Generate an environmental action plan to implement the above.