

# ALL SAINTS HIGHERTOWN, TRURO

## Parish Policy for the Environment

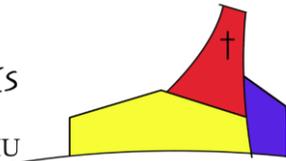
### Outline

We affirm that care for God's creation is a foundational biblical command and a gospel imperative; it is central to Christian Mission. We will embrace, respect and cherish the natural world as God made it, in all its aspects. We recognise our shared plight as part of a creation which is 'groaning in travail'; and we acknowledge in humility and penitence the burden laid upon it by our human depredations. Yet we rejoice in the vision, and gladly take up the challenge, which flows from the life, death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, who 'made peace between earth and heaven through his blood shed on the Cross', and so enabled the whole creation to be redeemed and reconciled to God, to be 'liberated from its bondage to decay' and 'brought into the glorious freedom of the children of God'. We are called in His name to repair and make whole what has been tragically sundered and marred, to be His agents of transformation and redemption (Romans 8, 20-22; Colossians 1, 20). The Parochial Church Council of the Parish of All Saints Highertown and Baldhu therefore aims to uphold the fifth mark of mission as adopted by the Anglican Church which is:-

"To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and to sustain and renew the life of the earth."

### Aims

1. As a Christ-centred and Spirit-led community we will strive to adapt our own lives, to the point where we may become fully sustainable in all we do, in harmony with the natural world which God created through Jesus Christ. We will encourage all church members to consider their impact on the environment, in their individual and family lives. We will seek to increase the awareness of environmental issues in our communities, and in the wider world.
2. In all we do in relation to the natural world, we will seek the guidance, strength and protection, as well as the forgiveness when we fall short, of God our Creator and Jesus Christ our Saviour. We recognise that, due to human actions, the threat of damaging change to the climate and our environment is present and it is serious; and that it is having very troubling and damaging effects on the world to which we seek to serve. We therefore declare a Climate Emergency and that the PCC will act accordingly. We will strive to be the 'salt of the earth and the light of the world' in mediating comfort, help and stability to our neighbours and communities, our city, our nation and our world.
3. We recognise that some people in our church are already engaged in protecting and conserving the environment. We will seek to support this work, and promote the sharing of good practice with the whole church. We will also proactively look to



collaborate with other groups within the Christian Church, as well as other faiths and secular bodies that actively share our concern for the environment.<sup>1</sup>

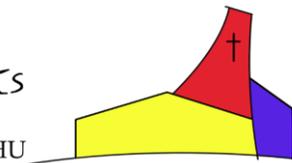
4. We will strive to avoid wasting resources. We will conserve energy as far as possible, and obtain it where feasible from renewable sources.

We will seek to conserve water. We will seek to obtain materials, goods and services from renewable sources which also adhere to fair working and employment practices – and when worn out to adapt and re-use them where possible; when we have to dispose of them we will endeavour to do so in a non-damaging way.

5. We will consider the environmental implications of our food, where and how it is grown, transported and sold and where possible to buy and source from local and sustainable sources, manifesting practical love for our neighbours at home and overseas who labour to produce the food which we enjoy; not wasting it; whilst taking due care of our bodies as temples of God's Holy Spirit.
6. We will undertake an annual audit of the use and handling of energy, water and waste, and emissions of GHGs, in relation to all our church buildings; and of the care of wildlife and biodiversity in and around our grounds and surrounding our churchyard at Baldhu. The results of these audits shall inform efforts to reduce our negative impact and resources used. We will promote and assist efforts to install appropriate renewable energy technologies within the church buildings.
7. Over the course of 2019/20 we will consider signing up to the Living Churchyards initiative <https://ecochurchsouthwest.org.uk/actions/living-churchyards/> and commit to managing our grounds according to the principles of organic gardening. To use our our gardens for creative teaching, healing and possibly employment/training resource for disadvantaged groups.
8. We will seek all appropriate and necessary funding, by means of grants as well as parish giving and other sources, for alterations to our church and community facility to reduce its GHG footprint and environmental impact. Such alterations shall be carried out, and finance expended, in a professional, economical and efficient manner.
9. We recognise that, living in the UK and the developed world, we have made a greater contribution than other parts of the world to GHG 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 most suffer the adverse consequences. We accept responsibility to do our utmost to soften these impacts and the suffering which they cause. We will therefore undertake

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<sup>1</sup> It is the understanding of the PCC that activist groups such as Green Peace, Extinction Rebellion, Surfers against Sewage etc can be a helpful mechanism for change, and a source of knowledge and energy. At times, in agreement with the PCC, All Saints may wish to partner with activities run by this group. Each event will be taken on its own merit, evaluating the purpose and risks associated with it.



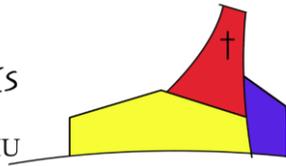
the following changes to mitigate the impact to help start to undo some of the damage we have caused:

- i. The PCC will appoint an Environmental Advocate who will ensure that the PCC Environmental Policy is adhered to and the church, as a whole, is invited to participate in the PCC's efforts toward positive change.
- ii. The Environmental Advocate will promote the 10 pledges to congregation and the wider community by communicating the benefits of doing so for us and for others. <http://climatevision.co.uk/top-ten-pledges>
- iii. Having communicated the 10 Pledges to the congregations at All Saints and support people to achieve them, we will now be ready to think about the church. The Cornwall Churches Environment Group (CCEG) invites churches of all denominations to work towards achieving status as a Green Church Kernow, through the Bronze, Silver and Gold awards. Using this award scheme we look to focus on the three areas of Christian Living, Community and Resources.<sup>2</sup>
- iv. The PCC will ensure that we only use 100% green energy providers.
- v. The PCC will continue to pay travel expenses at 45p per mile but will first ask where possible for members of the ministry team to travel by bicycle or foot. If a car, bus, train or plane is used then the PCC will make a payment toward a carbon offset scheme such as reforestation or certified emission reduction project at a cost no greater than £40 per CO2 metric tonne produced.<sup>3</sup>
- vi. All Saints will become a partner Church in the A Rocha group and work towards achieving a good level of compliance within the Eco-Congregation guidelines.
- vii. The PCC will ensure it properly recycles all materials where possible and commits to not using single use plastics.
- viii. The PCC will make the best conservational use of our facilities and assets.
- ix. The PCC will ensure policy making and approvals comply with ethical environmental thinking, accepting that there may be a financial cost in

<sup>2</sup> <http://climatevision.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/Green-Church-A3-print-ready-Pledges-Awards-LeafletPoster.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) projects that have generated Certified Emission Reductions (CERs). CDM was defined by the Kyoto Protocol to promote clean development in developing countries. This offsetting portfolio supports sustainable development through a range of projects such as Wind Energy, Small Hydro Power, Efficient Cookstoves and Biomass.

All Saints  
HIGHERTOWN & BALDHU



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Reverend Jeremy Putnam

so doing.

The Environmental Advocate will work towards achieving these objectives with the full support of the PCC. They will bear in mind that there are no certificates or prizes to be won. Their work will be gentle and may be slow. They will liaise with all other groups in the church. They will report to the PCC at each meeting sharing progress and matters that require discussion and approval. The achievements and ideas coming from their work may be shared with the Truro Diocese Environmental Core Group.

Signed .....  .....

Dated .....11<sup>th</sup> Sept 2019

Chair of the PCC

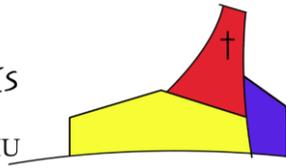
Signed .....

Dated .....

Lay Chair

Revised and approved by the Parochial Church Council on 11<sup>th</sup> Sept 2019

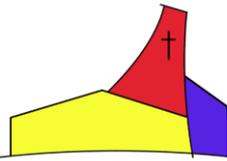
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Appendix



# Make a difference, make a pledge, or two...



If you would like to take some practical steps towards making a difference then do as many of the top ten pledges below as you think you can achieve.

## Pledge ONE

I pledge to ring my electricity supplier over the next 24 hours and see if I can switch to green energy (if not I will find one)!

## Pledge TWO

I pledge to buy local seasonal produce as much as possible – starting with at least 2 meals a week

## Pledge THREE

I pledge to educate myself about the science and impacts of climate change.

## Pledge FOUR

I pledge to contact my MP and my friends and make these pledges too

## Pledge FIVE

I have pledged to walk, cycle, use public transport or register with [www.carsharecornwall.com](http://www.carsharecornwall.com) 08700 111199 to travel to work or regular journey at least once a week.

## Pledge SIX

I have worked out my own carbon footprint using one of the many easy to use carbon calculators eg, <http://footprint.wwf.org.uk>

## Pledge SEVEN

I pledge to do a 'home energy check' to find out how I can save energy in my home. [www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/resources/tools-calculators/home-energy-check](http://www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/resources/tools-calculators/home-energy-check)  
If you don't have internet ask the Energy Saving Trust on 0800 512 012

## Pledge EIGHT

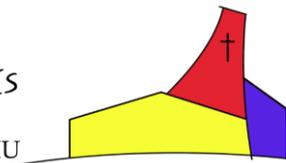
I pledge to turn my thermostat down or use a thermometer to reach the lowest comfortable temperature, typically between 18-21°C & think about putting on a jumper instead.

## Pledge NINE

I have pledged to reduce my holiday air miles by 50%.

## Pledge TEN

I pledge to research 'Driving in a greener way' by google/research or by ringing up a driving instructor and booking a lesson to learn eco-drive ideas.



## The Church of England's *Shrinking the Footprint* Campaign

### *Measuring our Footprint* – The C of E National Energy Audit

The following is a simple *Audit* to help you assess your current energy footprint. It is short but comprehensive and will cover most types of buildings. However not all the questions will apply to every church. A series of more detailed audits are available from Eco-congregations ([www.eco-congregation.org](http://www.eco-congregation.org)).

Lighting in the Church – Is there a need?	Yes/No
Do all the lights need to be on?	Yes/No
Even on a sunny day?	Yes/No
Can all the light fittings be fitted with energy saving light bulbs?	Yes/No
Are all fittings fitted with energy saving bulbs?	Yes/No
Could you use LEDs to illuminate parts of the church and its features?	Yes/No

*Now do the same for the Vestry, Hall, Parish Rooms.*

#### **Exterior lighting**

Many churches are floodlit for mission, security, tourism etc	
Is the timing mechanism adjusted to meet seasonal needs?	Yes/No
Is the illumination programme adjusted to liturgical or individual donors etc	Yes/No
Is the lighting checked regularly to ensure against causing light pollution?	Yes/No
Are energy saving bulbs used?	Yes/No

#### **Heating & Insulation**

Is your boiler more than 15 years old?*	Yes/No
(*if so then it will probably not be as efficient as it should be)	
Is it regularly serviced?	Yes/No
Does it have a time switch?	Yes/No
Is this adjusted to meet seasonal needs?	Yes/No
Is it possible to reduce the heating period?	Yes/No
Are all windows and doors draught proofed?	Yes/No
Are all pipes lagged?	Yes/No
Are buildings which can be fitted with roof insulation?	Yes/No
Are cavity walls insulated?	Yes/No
Can parts of the building be heated separately?	Yes/No

#### **Other energy - transport**

Is there a car sharing scheme to get people to and from Church?	Yes/No
Is there a safe place to leave bicycles?	Yes/No

As part of this Audit please record the number of units used as recorded on your energy bills and do this at the same time each year from now on.

***Remember all new equipment on sources of energy is likely to cost money initially. The first task for all Churches should be to see how the existing facilities can be made more efficient.***

**More information and resources from the Church of England's National Environment Campaign may be found at: [www.shrinkingthefootprint.anglican.org](http://www.shrinkingthefootprint.anglican.org) or email: [shrinkingthefootprint@c-of-e.org.uk](mailto:shrinkingthefootprint@c-of-e.org.uk)**