

# HOLY TRINITY CHURCH, WESTBURY-ON-TRYM

## ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY 2022

### INTRODUCTION

This document was approved on 17<sup>th</sup> January 2022 by the Parish Church Council (PCC). It sets out the Environmental Policy of Holy Trinity Church, Westbury-on-Trym in 2022. It draws upon measures set out in the Bristol Diocese Environmental Policy document and it updates the Environmental Policy last agreed in January 2019, a final report on which is included as an appendix to this document. A new 3-year action plan is set out. The main aim and objectives are largely unchanged.

The Policy document relates to the use of, and activities associated with, the church and the parish office. Every aspect of the church's life should be consistent with working towards our environmental objectives, as far as possible

### AIM

**This parish recognises we all have a special responsibility to care for the Earth and to seek the best possible harmony with other creatures of the Earth.**

**We aim to take the practical steps necessary in order to realise the Fifth Mark of Mission which is "to strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and to sustain the life of the Earth".**

### OBJECTIVES

We have six objectives which will help us to make progress towards this aim. They are :

1. To reduce our carbon footprint in line with the Diocesan objectives of net zero carbon emissions by 2030.
2. To manage our waste sustainably
- 3 To work with local and other organisations to promote awareness of environmental issues
4. To protect the natural environment
5. To ensure that building work is carried out to the highest environmental standards
- 6 To ensure our financial decisions are as environmentally sound as possible.

We have evolved policies to make progress towards meeting these objectives accordingly and updated the annual action plan to address them. The policy will be reviewed at least every 3 years. Progress on the annual action plan will be reported regularly to PCC.

### **1. Reduce our carbon footprint**

This means addressing our consumption of gas, electricity, water, fuel and paper.

**(a)** - Gas is only used for the central heating system of the church and is generally required between the months of October and May. Use at other times is only necessary during exceptionally cold weather. In general, central heating is provided

only when the temperature is low and the building is occupied. New gas boilers installed in 2016 are thermostatically controlled and are programmed electronically. Because the church building is large with very little insulation, the periods of applied heat are adjusted through experience for reasons of economy. The radiator system was also replaced in 2016 and can be programmed to heat only St Paul's room if needed. The new system is very much more effective in keeping the church warm although it uses more gas than hitherto, (see below). It should be noted that the lower figure for 2016 may in part be due to there being no heating during the weeks in the autumn whilst the new system was being installed, that the early part of 2018 was exceptionally cold, and that the lower figures for 2020 and 2021 reflect the closures during Covid-19 restrictions on church use.

Annual Gas consumption								
Year	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Cu. m gas	8088	7042	6282	9744	11526	9303	7981	7676

The installer, HeatinGlobal, is contracted to service the boiler annually. The annual gas consumption and boiler usage are also reviewed in the summer to consider whether any significant cost savings might be achieved in the following season. However the historic church building by its nature is not well insulated.

**Policy 1 – we will reduce gas consumption, thereby reducing emissions and the impact on the environment of our use of this natural resource, as much as possible.**

### **Actions**

- (i) Continue to monitor gas consumption
- (ii) Monitoring central heating system settings as part of a drive towards more efficient gas usage and greater efficiency. Settings will be adjusted and the effects monitored by comparing meter readings, sampling temperatures, and noting user reactions.
- (iii) Review servicing annually and keep in mind possibilities for system improvements,

### **(b) Electricity Consumption**

Electricity is used for room heating, water heating, lighting and powered equipment. Consumption varies according to the time of year and building usage. The use of electricity is kept as low as possible commensurate with the needs of current church/office activities. Electrical systems and equipment are subject to periodic inspection and test to maintain efficiency. Artificial light is normally required in the church owing to poor levels of natural light. Various types of light fitting are installed in the church and other buildings - dichroic spot lights, strip lights, clusters, and chandeliers. In recent years LED bulbs have been introduced when replacements have been required, and this is now largely complete, with the exception of the sanctuary spotlights. In the church, lights are controlled in groups, i.e. a single switch controls a group of clusters, chandeliers, etc. The external light by the sacristy door is PIR-controlled. The trend in consumption in the church is downwards, as can be seen in the table below. Photovoltaic panels were installed

on the church roof in 2010 and generate about 3,400 Kwh annually. This power can be used by the church when it is available, and surplus is fed to the National Grid.

Annual electricity consumption						
Year	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Church (Kwh)	13,075	10,515	8,715	7,736	5,302	
Office (Kwh)	5,126	5,842	5,403	4,310	1,452	

### **Policy –To reduce electricity consumption**

#### **Actions -**

- (i) Monitor and adjust electricity consumption
- (ii) Re-examine signage for “switch-off” reminders and their effectiveness and consider timed switches where appropriate
- (iii) Lighting – replace remaining old types of bulb with LED ones.

#### **(c) Water Usage**

The church and other buildings are supplied with mains water to taps, toilets, etc. A meter was installed in 2017 for church water use. Water usage is quite small. No particular restrictions on use are in place. Attention to leaks, etc. is on an as-required basis. It is proposed to re-order the toilets and St Paul’s room in the near future and this provides an opportunity to consider further improvements.

### **Policy – To avoid unnecessary waste of water at all times .**

#### **Actions**

- (i) Continue to monitor water use
- (ii) Maintain taps and toilet cisterns to ensure any leaks are promptly dealt with.
- (iii) Investigate use of rainwater from roofs for watering and toilet flushing.

#### **(d) Paper and Stationery**

A substantial quantity of paper and stationery is consumed in the course of administering and publicising church activities. Uses include correspondence, printed material, and sundry publications.

Most printed material is produced on a fairly regular basis and so the demand and output is generally steady, with minor seasonal variations. Reproduction quantities vary according to need and are normally determined by judgement and experience. Double-sided printing is used as far as possible, particularly when large production runs are required. Recycled white paper is now being used for non-complex printing tasks. Email is also used for the distribution of information where practicable. Scrap paper is always put to other office uses such as note-taking, and only recycled, along with cardboard, when no longer usable.

### **Policy To keep the use of paper and printing to a minimum.**

#### **Action -**

- (i) Review paper usage and stock control procedures to identify any waste.

- (ii) Consider and trial the use of recycled coloured paper where possible.
- (iii) Encourage the use of electronic communication as far as is practicable taking account of GPDR and the access of recipients to email.
- (iv) Continue to encourage recycling in the office and by the congregation

**(e) Fuel**

Those living within easy distance are likely to walk to church. Otherwise, private transport is normally used with some use of public transport (buses) if available. Some car sharing occurs, especially for the main Sunday services or other events, and a scheme exists whereby some drivers routinely offer lifts to others, again mostly for Sunday services. Car sharing is also used as much as possible for transporting people to external events.

During 2016 a parish cycling group was formed and this now rides out regularly. Bicycle stands by the church gates are well used.

**Policy – To encourage the use of public transport and bicycles. Where distance and other factors point to car use, we will encourage car-sharing if practicable.**

**Action -**

- (i) Publicise local bus timetables and access to real time information
- (ii) Investigate the practicalities of car-sharing where appropriate
- (iii) Support wider use of bicycles and promote the parish cycling group.
- (iv) Encourage participation in GHCT annual Ride and Stride event
- (v) Encourage people to walk or cycle to church if they are able to do so.

**2. To manage our waste sustainably**

Waste arises from food and drink preparation in St Paul's room, the office and from occasional events in the College, from the use of paper, and from gardening and care of graves in the churchyard. It also includes redundant batteries, light bulbs and electrical equipment. We currently separate waste according to the collection regime of Bristol City Council.

**Policy -To continue to reduce, reuse and recycle waste wherever it is possible.**

**Actions**

- (i) Improve and maintain signage to ensure waste is effectively dealt with
- (ii) Compost green churchyard waste wherever possible
- (iii) Review the frequency of disposal and methods of green waste to ensure a suitable system is in place for both church and churchyard.
- (iv) Promote recycling to congregation and visitors

**3. To work with local and national organisations to promote awareness of environmental issues**

These should be brought to everyone's attention by introducing them in worship and other activities to develop greater awareness of the problems and positive achievements.

The environment is now beginning to receive greater attention in worship and other activities, and ideas and suggestions for good practice are being actively exchanged, but this needs further work.

**Policy –we will continue to bring environmental issues into mission, worship and pastoral care to a greater extent. We will aim to keep abreast of environmental developments, both locally and nationally, and seek ways to put our views across and influence others.**

### **Actions**

- (i) Establish a regular annual pattern of themed services linked to particular points in the church year and the use of specialist speakers.
- (ii) Engage with other local organisations and leaders to raise awareness and campaign for climate justice
- (iii) continue to publicise “green” activities, using display space, the parish magazine and regular pewsheets.
- (iv) Encourage work with young people and children to include the theme of care for our planet.
- (v) Use the A Rocha ‘Eco-church’ initiative as a tool to improve our environmental performance.

## **4 . The Natural Environment**

The church has a large churchyard which provides habitat for wildlife as well as providing a pleasant and peaceful environment of grass, trees, and plants. It is maintained according to guidelines revised in 2021 taking account of environmental issues. Whilst most of the grass is regularly cut in season, weed growth around graves is only cut back occasionally when resources are available. Chemical treatment is not permitted. Trees are professionally pruned as required.

**Policy – To continue to ensure that the churchyard is maintained in an environmentally sympathetic way.**

### **Action**

- (i) Monitor and review churchyard guidance notes at least every 3 years with a view to updating environmental information as required.

## **5. To ensure building work and maintenance is carried out to the highest environmental standards**

Much of the church fabric is ancient and requires special attention. The architecture and materials also necessitate specialist attention. As the church is a grade 1 listed building works may need a Faculty. All building work therefore requires careful planning and must be undertaken by appropriately qualified contractors. Materials used must be appropriate for the building.

An approved church architect/surveyor reviews the church fabric every 5 years and advises on work required.

**Policy – To require that all work is undertaken to the highest possible environmental standards.**

**Action**

- (i). To require professionals to have “green” credentials and to provide services that are in keeping with good environmental practice.
- (ii) Ensure that environmental aspects are included in specifications for building projects, etc.
- (iii) To ensure that products (e.g. cleaning materials) are “environmentally-friendly” and that sustainable building/furnishing products are employed

**6. To ensure our financial decisions are as environmentally sound as possible.**

All purchasing involves the distribution of raw materials and or finished products, both of which have some environmental impact. It should be sensitive to environmental issues.

Routine consumables (wafers, wine, candles, etc) are bought from recognised church suppliers. The purchase of food and drink for sale is through Traidcraft as much as possible and aims to meet the LOAF (locally-sourced, organically-grown, animal friendly and fairly-traded) principles. Food and drink is also bought for social events.

Other items, including paper, light bulbs, flowers, batteries and print material, are bought from normal commercial suppliers.

**Policy – To ensure that all purchasing decisions take account of environmental consequences.**

**Action –**

- (i) Use LOAF principles as far as possible, look for “green” credentials in suppliers,
- (ii) Explore bulk buying of sustainable goods including cleaning products if shown to be economic and beneficial.

Investments are placed and managed by CCLA and we rely on its own policy as regards environmental impact. A local bank is used for day-to-day business. The PCC’s Mission Committee agrees 3 charities each year to benefit from an annual Mission Sunday campaign. In 2021 one of these was Operation Noah.

**Policy – To continue to use manage church finances in an environmentally sensitive way.**

**Action-**

- (i) Continue to use internet banking to reduce paperwork.
- (ii) Ensure that our investments are environmentally sound
- (iii) Include an environmental charity in our mission giving strategy each year.

