

# St John's Church, Stratford, E15

## PCC Environmental Policy for St John's

### ***"Treading lightly on the earth"***

#### 1. Introduction

1.1 The Five Marks of Mission express the fundamental purposes of the Church. In brief, they are; evangelism, nurturing discipleship, helping the needy, struggling for justice, and caring for the environment.

The Fifth Mark is:

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

1.2 In November 2004, the Chelmsford Diocesan Synod resolved, amongst other matters, that this synod:

*Asks each deanery, parish and church school, to devise appropriate environment policies for themselves*

1.3 The central theme of the St John's Church PCC Environmental Policy is to encourage the development of personal and corporate lifestyles that '*tread lightly on the earth*'.

This policy is based on the Chelmsford Diocesan Environmental Policy and Policy Guidance.

#### 2. General Clauses

- 2.1 We affirm the Fifth Mark of Mission as a central part of our life, work and mission.
- 2.2 We will take environmental concerns fully into account in our mission, worship, study, education, training, pastoral, administrative and other programmes and projects.
- 2.3 We will be aware of environmental issues in our parish, surrounding area and borough as a whole, and support appropriate action on them, where possible.
- 2.4 We will appoint a person as our Environmental Officer and encourage him or her to bring environmental concerns forward to the PCC agenda on a regular basis.
- 2.5 We will seek appropriate information from a Christian environmental group (e.g. Eco-congregation) and keep abreast of current thinking, through the role of the Environmental Officer.
- 2.6 We will undertake an 'environmental audit' of our premises and property, and make appropriate plans to address identified issues.
- 2.7 We will consider the environmental impact of all our policies and plans, and accept that additional costs may be incurred, where current resources allow.
- 2.8 We will ask our members to consider their personal impact on the environment in their daily lives.
- 2.9 We will support the work of local and national environmental organisations, as appropriate.
- 2.10 We will request the Environmental Officer to present a brief, written report on implementation of this policy and associated plans to the PCC, once a year.

- 2.11 We will pay attention to environmental concerns in our banking and investment practice, and continue to pay regard to the national church ethical investment policy.

### 3. Group Clauses

#### Parish Housing Committee

- 3.1 We will seek the best environmental standards for the repair and refurbishment of assistant clergy housing, taking into consideration the age and needs of the properties.
- 3.2 We will encourage architects and contractors to take environmental concerns into account in their work.

#### St John's Building Committee

- 3.3 We will encourage architects and contractors to take environmental concerns into account in their work.
- 3.4 We will implement "The Environmental Impact of Building Works and Services in Church Buildings" guidelines, where possible.

#### St John's Mission Giving Committee

- 3.5 We will seek information about and be aware of the environmental impact of organisations we consider for support.

### 4. Specific Clauses

- 4.1 We will seek to inspire the use of environmentally-friendly forms of transport, e.g. walking, cycling, use of public transport, car sharing, keeping journeys to meeting venues short and reducing fossil fuel emissions, where possible.
- 4.2 We will keep our use of energy under review, by undertaking regular energy audits, by considered use of thermostats and other measures to control heating and energy use and long term considerations of energy suppliers – including the possibilities of purchasing 'green energy'. We will also consider energy saving options where new materials or equipment are installed.
- 4.3 We will seek ways to reduce consumption of all materials, aiming to recycle waste where we are able and looking at ways to repair or reuse rather than replacing assets. We will consider the impact of our activities on the environment by the use of recycled or re-used materials, or use of those from sustainable sources or with low environmental impact, where practical to do so
- 4.4 We will endeavour to encourage recycling, through the provision of a Recycling point for materials that can be collected via the Newham Council Orange Bag scheme. Other materials (such as glass and wood), where possible, will be taken to a local recycling point.
- 4.4 Where we are responsible for the purchase of food and drink, we will seek to apply the LOAF principles (Locally sourced, Organically grown, Animal friendly, Fairly traded). We will also encourage these principles, where appropriate, in those who donate food and drink for our use.
- 4.5 We will avoid using water unnecessarily, check for leakages regularly and fit water minimising systems to taps and cisterns, wherever possible.

Date Agreed: May 12<sup>th</sup> 2008

Review Date: May 2009