

St Luke's environmental policy 2022
(Incorporating an ethical purchasing policy)
(Ethical purchasing policy to be used alongside the Ethical Buying Guide for churches (a Money Makes Change resource)).

Context:

The Five Marks of Mission The five marks of mission have been developed by the Anglican Consultative Council since 1984. Since then, they have been widely adopted as an understanding of what contemporary mission is about. The marks were adopted by the General Synod of the Church of England in 1996 and many dioceses and other denominations used them as the basis of action plans and creative mission ideas. (CofE)

The Five marks of mission:

1. *To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom*
2. *To teach, baptise and nurture new believers*
3. *To respond to human need by loving service*
4. *To seek to transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and to pursue peace and reconciliation*
5. *To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth*

The Church of England states of the 5 marks of mission "All are deeply relevant to environmental action." The fifth mark of mission provides the missionary rationale for engaging with environmental issues. Creation care is at the heart of discipleship. At St Luke's we aim to take the practical steps necessary to realise this fifth mark of mission.

United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UNSDGs)

The UN SDGs were unanimously adopted by all UN Member states in 2015. The global Anglican Communion has played a significant role in pursuit of the Sustainable Development Goals, and is committed to engaging constructively with the United Nations in this work. The Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby in 2018 stated "As the Anglican Communion we need to continue to be deeply engaged in achieving the SDGs."

At St Luke's Church our social and environment engagement through various groups and activities already contributes to achieving the SDGs and is to be celebrated.

Local context: St Luke's church Great Crosby lies within the Diocese of Liverpool which has made a commitment to take steps to reach net-zero carbon by 2030. St Luke's church is currently a 'Silver Award' Eco-Church and is currently working towards the 'Gold Award.' St Luke's PCC is developing net-zero plans which includes a comprehensive grounds management plan.

Vision and values – St Luke's called to follow, share, serve, love, worship

Follow – care for creation is rooted in Scripture; we are called to reflect God's love for the whole earth and to exercise that responsibility through -

Share- Sharing our enthusiasm and care for the environment by encouraging others in words and example

Serve- serving God through serving creation and recognising that all species have value

Love- demonstrating awareness of the impact our decisions can have on people we cannot see

Worship – connecting our environmental concerns with teaching and preaching

Our commitments and actions as a church: As a church we acknowledge the climate crisis and aim to achieve net carbon emissions by 2030 in line with the Church of England's environmental programme, with the support of the PCC the Eco Group will work with all the church family to carry out the action plan.

Action Plan for 2022

We commit to

- Developing and maintaining a strategy for the use of church buildings, & grounds, in order to manage minimise the impact on the environment
- Incorporating wider environmental concerns into the theological & liturgical life of the church through church services throughout the year for example at Environment Sunday (nearest 5th June) during Creation time (1st September-4th October) at Harvest and on one other occasion.
- Completing the Energy Footprint Tool yearly (which is part of the Parish Returns system).
- Completing the 'Practical pathway to net zero' survey and checklist <https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2021-01/the-practical-path-to-net-zero-carbon-numbered-Jan2020.pdf>
- Implementing the agreed net-zero plan
- Achieving Gold Eco-Church by 2022
- Working with church members to deliver the policy
- Asking all church members to consider our personal impact on the environment in our daily lives and to make relevant lifestyle changes, including considering our own buying habits, as appropriate to our circumstances and encourage such actions in our local neighbourhoods and workplaces

- Embed the environmental/ethical purchasing policy into guidance around purchases
- Seek ways to reduce consumption – re-use, repair, recycle etc.
- Support the work of local and national environmental organisations
- Keeping up to date with current environmental affairs, legislation and best practice
- **Other activities:** community environmental activities these may include for example an Apple pressing Day and a guided Mindfulness/Quiet time session.

Purchasing policy:

Purchasing decisions covered by this policy

This policy applies to all purchasing decisions made on behalf of St Luke's church and to all church activities. Church money should be spent in line with this policy unless a clear reason is identified

1. General principles

Through our purchasing decisions we strive to:

- Reduce our environmental impact and carbon emissions
 - Support businesses that have a positive impact on society and the environment
 - Support our local economy
 - Uphold fair wages and working conditions
 - Champion tax justice
 - Improve animal welfare
 - Pursue peace and protect human rights
- Where possible, we aim to buy from companies that:
 - Have transparent, ambitious plans to reduce their carbon emissions

Where possible, we choose to buy products with the best ethical credentials, as indicated by independent certification or ratings. A list of Ethical marks and schemes may be found in <https://www.ethicalconsumer.org/> (*To consider subscribing to 'Ethical consumer' online*)

2. Fairtrade commitmentⁱ

[This wording is part of the commitment to become a Fairtrade Church]

- We use Fairtrade products wherever possible (at least tea, coffee and sugar) and share this information with our church members.

- We celebrate Fairtrade Fortnight and integrate Fairtrade into the life of our church e.g. through preaching, prayer and events
- We engage with other Fairtrade campaigns and connect with community groups, such as schools and towns, where possible.

3. Caring for the earth / Responding to the climate crisisⁱⁱ

- We buy electricity from renewable sources.
- We buy Low Energy / LED bulbs wherever possible.
- We use rechargeable battery machinery in the grounds as an alternative to petrol wherever possible
- We use recycled toilet paper where possible
- We use environmentally friendly cleaning products. We buy products in large and/or refillable containers to reduce our plastic use.
- We take steps to reduce our use of single-use plastic.
- We use recycled paper in our church office.
- We only use peat-free compost in our church garden.
- We aim to source locally grown, seasonal flowers and use silk flowers and reduce the quantity of floral foam ('oasis') for flower arranging.
- Where possible to re-use metal and plastic flower pots discarded by graveyard visitors.
- We choose FSC certified wood products.
- To use soil blocker to reduce the amount of purchased plastic to zero when sowing seeds

4. Food and animal welfare

- Inspired by Green Christian's LOAF principlesⁱⁱⁱ, we aim to source and serve food that is Locally produced, Organically grown, Animal friendly and Fairly traded.
- When buying food and drink products, we look for the Soil Association organic standard and the Fairtrade Mark, where available .e.g. organic milk.
- We aim to buy fewer but higher welfare animal products. We look for logos/schemes that demonstrate better or best available standards in animal welfare, including RSPCA Assured, Organic, Pasture for Life and free-range certifications.^{iv}
- We aim to buy vegetarian/vegan products where high animal welfare standards cannot be met e.g. buying sandwiches for an event we would chose vegetarian if the meat options were not assured

5. Other issues

- We keep products and appliances in use for as long as possible, seeking to repair rather than replace.
- We think carefully about how we dispose of anything that we no longer need. e.g give it away or offer to the local 'buy nothing' FB group

6. Increased costs

- We recognise that changes to our purchasing may lead to increased costs in some areas. This may mean we need to reduce expenditure elsewhere. Ethical purchasing is part of the responsible stewardship of our resources and how we work for a fairer, more sustainable world.
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7. Wider engagement

We encourage our wider community to join us in making more ethical purchasing decisions – through links with St Luke's Halsall school. We take action to encourage companies to work for the common good. This could include asking questions of new suppliers, contacting companies when we switch (with reasons for leaving) and joining wider campaigns for change.

Date agreed:

Date for review:

ⁱ For more information see: <https://www.fairtrade.org.uk/Get-Involved/In-your-community/Faith-Groups/Fairtrade-Churches>

ⁱⁱ See A Rocha's Eco Church scheme for additional resources (particularly the 'Buildings' and 'Community and Global Engagement' sections of the Eco Church survey): <https://ecochurch.arocha.org.uk>

ⁱⁱⁱ LOAF principles can be found here: <https://greenchristian.org.uk/gc-campaigns/loaf>

^{iv} For more detailed exploration of Christian ethics and farmed animal welfare see this policy framework: https://www1.chester.ac.uk/sites/default/files/CEFAW_PolicyFramework-Interactive.pdf