The Parish of Thornton & Allerton

Environmental Policy

Date	**June 2026**
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We affirm these elements of our faith:

- Through Christ, God has created an awesome and majestic cosmos to bring Him praise and glory. We are but one part of His created order.
- Jesus has redeemed the whole earth through His death and resurrection.
- We recognise that we have a special responsibility to care for the Earth so that human life and all God's creatures may be sustained in harmony.

Aim

As a local church, we aim to have a ministry and mission of care for Christ's creation, both for our own property, through our congregation and in our community, which glorifies God and brings Christ's kingdom in our parish.

Objective

As a church community, we will take environmental concerns into account in our mission, worship, study, education, training, pastoral, administrative and other projects and programmes.

Actions

1. We will include our concern for sustainability in our worship and teaching.

2. We will appoint a person as our Parish Environmental Representative/Champion to lead our programme and encourage them to bring relevant environmental issues and concerns forward to the PCC on a regular basis.

3. We will undertake to calculate and report annually on our church's carbon footprint annually (using the Parish Return's Energy Foot-printing Tool or the Climate Steward's 360^{O} carbon calculator).
    - We will put in place an action plan striving to be a carbon net zero church by 2030, in line with the Church of England's climate ambition (using the Six Steps to Carbon Net Zero Church Toolkit).
    - We will use an offsetting website like Climate Stewards to calculate the cost of offsetting our annual emissions and commit to offsetting where appropriate, building up to 100% offsetting by 2030.

4. We will undertake an environmental and energy audit of the church premises and property, identify the most significant issues and impacts which should be addressed and make and implement plans and programmes to tackle them. We recognise that some additional costs may be incurred to minimise environmental impacts and that changes to buildings may need faculty permission, requiring consultation with the Diocesan Advisory Committee and external bodies to ensure historic buildings legislation requirements are met.

5. We will seek to reduce the greenhouse gas emissions of the electricity and gas used in church premises by:
    - Switching to "green" energy suppliers (renewably generated electricity and biogas) if appropriate
    - Using thermostats for temperature control
    - Fitting LED light bulbs
    - Improving insulation wherever practicable and appropriate
    - Turning off lights, appliances and computers when not in use
    - Replacing old, inefficient boilers where practicable and investigating renewable heating alternatives

6. We will consider how our church is vulnerable to extreme weather from climate change and develop a climate resilience plan. For example upgrading rainwater goods to cope with intense rainfall, tree planting to provide shading in heatwaves, hedges for strong wind protection, having a flood plan.

7. We will work with others in our local community to identify environmental issues which should be addressed in our area and help develop actions to tackle them.

8. We will encourage our staff and congregation to reduce unnecessary travel using online communication, as appropriate. We will encourage forms of transport to work, meetings etc. which have minimum or reduced environmental impact – e.g. walk, cycle, public transport, car sharing, electric, hybrid, compressed natural gas or hydrogen vehicles.

9. We will explore and seek to reduce the greenhouse gas emissions of the food we serve. We will raise awareness among the congregation of the environmental impact of food and aim to help our community to enjoy healthy, seasonal food with a low environmental impact.

10. We will ensure that our church's money is being used ethically and our investments and bank account are divested from fossil fuels.

11. We will seek ways to reduce material consumption and the impact of our activities on the environment by, wherever possible:
    - using email rather than sending hard copies
    - using recycled paper
    - reusing/ repairing items
    - using low environmental impact cleaning materials

12. We will avoid using water unnecessarily, install water meters where appropriate, check for leakages, fit water minimising systems to taps and cisterns wherever practicable.

13. We will assess our land and property for wildlife and manage them to conserve biodiversity.

14. We will encourage individual members of our congregations to take actions in their personal lives to complement and supplement these actions of the church community.

15. We will participate in the Eco Church programme.

Useful Resources

Diocese of Leeds Environment webpages www.leeds.anglican.org/environment

Six Steps to Carbon Net Zero Church Toolkit
https://www.leeds.anglican.org/saving-creation-carbon-net-zero-church

Church of England Environment Programme Webinars
https://www.churchofengland.org/about/environment-and-climate-change/webinars-getting-net-zero-carbon

Church of England Net Zero Carbon Church Guidance
https://www.churchofengland.org/resources/churchcare/net-zero-carbon-church

Eco Church, A Rocha https://ecochurch.arocha.org.uk

Greening the Lectionary https://www.greeningthelectionary.net

Pray and Fast for the Climate www.prayandfastfortheclimate.org.uk

Green Christian www.greenchristian.org.uk

Climate Stewards www.climatestewards.org

Caring for God's Acre www.caringforgodsacre.org.uk

Historic England (environmental performance and historic buildings)
https://historicengland.org.uk/advice/technical-advice/energy-efficiency-and-historic-buildings