

Environmental Policy

St James Church, Silsden

Our Vision is to be Confident Christians, Growing in Christ, and Making Him Known

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.

1. Aim

As a local church, we aim to take the practical steps necessary to realise the Fifth Mark of Mission of the Anglican Communion, which is "to strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and to sustain the life of the earth".

2. 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.

3. Actions

- 3.1 We will appoint a person as our Environmental Officer/Champion to lead our programme and encourage him or her to bring relevant environmental issues and concerns forward to the PCC on a regular basis.
 - 3.2 We will include our concern for sustainability in our worship and teaching.
 - 3.3 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.
 - 3.4 We will constantly monitor the electricity and gas used in church premises and the supply contracts we use. Currently we purchase our electricity requirements through the 'Energy Basket' from the Church of England's Parish Buying facility, on the basis that the electricity
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element is generated by 100% renewable means (and also it saves us money) and our gas from Engie (which offers a better price) and also offsets.

3.5 We will:

3.5.1 Use thermostats for temperature control

3.5.2 Fit LED light bulbs

3.5.3 Improve insulation wherever practicable

3.5.4 Turn off lights, appliances and computers when not in use

3.6 We will encourage our staff and congregation wherever possible to use forms of transport to work, meetings etc. which have minimum or reduced environmental impact – e.g. walk, cycle, public transport, car sharing electric/hydrogen vehicles.

3.7 We will seek ways to reduce material consumption and the impact of our activities on the environment by, wherever possible by:-

3.7.1 serving locally produced food

3.7.2 using email rather than sending hard copies

3.7.3 using recycled paper

3.7.4 reusing/repairing items

3.7.5 using low environmental impact cleaning materials

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

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

3.10 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.