



The Church of England
in Essex and East London

Diocese of Chelmsford



It is possible...

to live differently.

MESSAGE FROM BISHOP STEPHEN



Bishop of Chelmsford
Rt Revd Stephen Cottrell

Since becoming your Bishop I have been consulting on four priorities. These can be summarised in the following questions:

- How we can live a distinctive life in the world?
- How we can share our faith with others?
- How we can hold ourselves accountable for developing a core agenda?
- How we can re-imagine our ministry so that the world can be transformed?

Through this booklet I believe we can all discover some of the answers to these questions for ourselves. As the title of this booklet confirms, It is possible to live differently.

But should we live differently? The answer to this question must be a resounding Yes. The Christian faith is about the whole of life. God cares about the whole created order. God calls us to be good stewards of the creation. One of the best ways we will commend our faith to others is by showing how we live it distinctively ourselves. This must include the way we cherish and safeguard the creation itself.

Our world is changing rapidly, and the next ten to fifteen years will be challenging times. We have a choice – to live differently and shape the way ahead or to stand still until we are overwhelmed. The good news is that de-cluttering is starting to get easier and more convenient. Reducing and recycling waste makes perfect economic sense and is already part of what most of us do.

I commend this booklet to you wholeheartedly as we develop our Christian life and witness together

“ For the Church of the 21st century, good ecology is not an optional extra but a matter of justice. It is therefore central to what it means to be a Christian. ”

Rowan Williams

Living differently as individuals and as Church as part of God's creation is the outworking of the Fifth Mark of Mission. The Five Marks of Mission of the Anglican Communion proclaim that The Mission of the Church is the Mission of Christ:

- To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom
- To teach, baptise and nurture new believers
- To respond to human need by loving service
- To seek to transform unjust structures of society
- To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth

SYNOD RESOLUTION

On 5 June 2010 the Diocesan Synod of the Diocese of Chelmsford passed the following Resolution:

This Synod:

- i. Believes that the 5th Mark of Mission ("...to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the earth") is a gospel imperative and that undertakings to reduce the effects of climate change are also a matter of justice for the whole world and especially the poor.
- ii. Supports the Church of England's Seven Year Church and Earth Climate Change Action Plan including its CO2 emissions reduction targets for the Church as a whole. These are in line with the national target of 80% reduction by 2050 with an interim aim of reducing the Church's own carbon footprint by 42% by 2020.
- iii. Advocates putting education and young people at the heart of the Church's climate change strategy, with all church schools aiming to achieve eco-school status and implementing Government policy on education for sustainable development.
- iv. Asks the diocese and all parishes to produce Annual carbon and energy reports by 2016, for all church buildings to have carbon footprints calculated and recommendations made by 2014, for parish churchyards to be actively regarded as part of our environmental stewardship and for practical support to be given to the Church of England's Climate Justice

Fund as an expression of partnership with Christians in parts of the world faced with the early effects of climate change.

- v. Calls upon all PCCs, Governing bodies of Voluntary Aided and Voluntary Controlled schools, and all church members to (a) take steps to reduce consumption of energy derived from fossil fuels, (b) to purchase their electricity from any supplier which provides a Green Tariff and which undertakes to invest heavily in the production of energy from renewable sources, (c) to invest in renewable energy resources and (d) to work actively in their families, communities and work places to encourage all to responsible stewardship of the earth and its precious resources.
- vi Encourages the Church to offer support to our new Prime Minister and government in resolute action in the face of climate change and in practical policies that promote truly sustainable living in our one world.

This **ACTION DOCUMENT** takes that Synod resolution as its starting point and challenges our diocese (including boards and committees), Area teams, deaneries, parishes, church schools and individual church members to take practical actions in order to reduce our carbon footprint, use our influence to bring about policy change, and be good stewards of God's world. The following pages give detailed help and resources to enable all to respond to these important tasks.

Key Area One: Theology and Liturgy

Care for the earth is founded upon relationship:

- a relationship between **Creator and created**, founded upon dignity with humility, and a gratitude which counts every created thing precious, with an innate value, not to be squandered
- a relationship between **every created being and every other**, which acknowledges that human power, ability and knowledge brings responsibilities of restraint, service and integrity. To be made "in the image of God" is not foremost a gift of power – God's exercise of power is self-sacrificial – but a gift of compassion and love in community.
- a relationship in **community**, experienced throughout the human family. The effects of ill-judged environmental behaviour are often felt first and most severely by the poorest communities, who pay the price for the actions of others. Seeking a sustainable future is part of a Christian commitment to a fairer and more equitable world. There is a strong social justice imperative to Christian ecological concerns, demanding urgent and radical lifestyle changes.
- a relationship within the **whole created order**. Genesis 1 sets humanity within a balanced order resonant with goodness, giving human beings responsibility for the stewardship and care of the created world.

- a relationship with the **material world** in which the Word was made flesh, hallowing our physicality.

It is this **relatedness and respect for the whole of creation under God**, which is at the core of our thinking and acting as the people of God. This theological starting point we also share with people of other faiths.

Our worship will therefore from time to time give special focus to these matters. Christian liturgies declare that in Christ, God has reconciled the world to God's self; God's saving purpose is not just for the individual but for the whole creation. **Therefore we ask parishes, through their ordained and lay leadership, to encourage reflection, thanksgiving, prayer and prophecy in relation to environmental issues.**

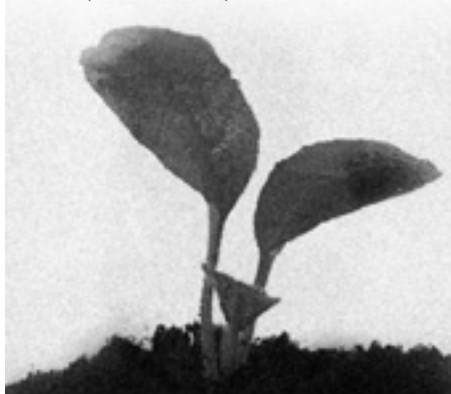


Ideas for Action:

- Use Creation Sunday (Second Sunday before Lent/Sexagesima) to focus on environment issues in worship and preaching
- Use Harvest to celebrate different aspects of Creation and raise environmental issues
- Arrange a screen showing of challenging films e.g. The Age of Stupid or An Inconvenient Truth
- Use Advent or Lent to run a study course
- Encourage intercessors to include prayers on the environment
- Hold services of celebration for the goodness of Creation and raise awareness of environmental concerns with other parishes in your deanery and ecumenical partners
- Assess the ecological value of your church land/graveyard and develop its potential for biodiversity.
- Use the parish magazine to publish green tips and raise awareness of environmental issues.
- Find out if there is a 'Transition' group in your area – join in!
www.transitionnetwork.org
- Encourage some observance of Creation Time: between the beginning of September and St. Francis' Day (4th Oct). This is being ecumenically promoted across Europe: and liturgical/teaching resources are available.
www.ctbi.org.uk

Resources to help:

1. www.ecocongregation.org
2. www.christian-ecology.org.uk, including resources and links to study courses.
3. The Iona Community has produced a number of liturgies relevant to Creation. Their publications/downloads are on www.ionabooks.com
4. Collections of prayers in the Celtic tradition by David Adam and others; books such as 'Creation at Worship' by Christopher Voke and 'Don't stop at the Lights' by Clare Foster and David Shreeve offer theological background and practical ideas for use in the Church's year.
5. Christian Aid has produced a number of resources on climate change, including a booklet by Paula Clifford, 'All Creation Groaning' www.christianaid.org.uk
6. 'Caring for God's Acre' is a conservation charity for churchyards and burial grounds www.caringforgodsacre.org.uk
7. www.wildlifetrusts.org – includes examples of churchyard audits



Key Area Two: Energy Use at Church and at Home

The 2010 Synod resolution (part iv) asks for “all church buildings to have carbon footprints calculated and recommendations made by 2014” and (part v(a)) for “church members to take steps to reduce consumption of energy derived from fossil fuels”. In this section we suggest ways to measure, assess and reduce our carbon footprint, as a church in the community and in our individual lives.

Ideas for Action:

- Appoint an “environment champion” from your congregation to coordinate your efforts and liaise with others.
- Build up an eco-cell or eco-team.
- Audit energy use in your church, church hall, your own home and your business or place of work (see proforma at the end of this document; see also imeasure.org.uk and smeasure.org.uk)
- Set a target to reduce your carbon footprint year on year.
- Examine carefully your heating/ventilating/lighting and floodlighting provision and how energy may be saved.
- Review your recycling actions at church and at home and see if there can be any improvement.
- Encourage greater re-use, repair and recycling of materials.

Resources to help:

1. The Church of England's Shrinking the Footstep website:

www.shrinkingthefootprint.cofe.anglican.org

has detailed information and guidance on measuring energy consumption in churches, halls, schools, clergy homes and offices, with further appendices on how to measure your carbon footprint, replace equipment etc.

2. The Church in Wales has also produced a 'Parish Green Guide', which includes checklists for action, further resources for help (publications and websites) and ideas for prayers and worship:
www.churchinwales.org.uk/resources/pgg/docs/PGG01.pdf
3. The Diocese of London project *Generic Building Solutions* aims to find ways to meet their long-term climate challenge, to reduce their energy use and carbon emissions by at least 80% by 2050. The results of their work so far and lots of useful guidance are available online at www.london.anglican.org/Shrinking-the-Footprint-Generic-Building-Solutions
4. For further information on recycling and reducing waste, see www.recycle-more.co.uk
www.recycling-guide.org.uk
www.recyclenow.com



Key Area Three: Buildings

Buildings of all kinds account for 45% of carbon emissions in the UK: from non-domestic buildings (18%) and homes (27%). Church-owned buildings (churches, halls, houses and offices) therefore make a significant contribution to our carbon footprint. Environmental issues must be at the forefront of our planning, especially with new building. For our existing places of worship, the accepted criteria for insulation and energy use in residential and commercial buildings may be difficult to apply, especially on heritage listed buildings. The Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC) can advise on what steps might be worthwhile.

Ideas for Action:

- PCCs and others responsible for churches and other property can take steps to reduce energy use (see previous section).
- Explore more sharing of buildings and resources between churches and with other community groups.
- Review winter service patterns and requirement to heat church buildings.
- Explore possibilities of creating “pods” within larger church buildings, or screen off side chapels for smaller services.

Key Area Four: Transport and Travel

Travel is one of the bigger contributors to carbon emissions. Car travel to church, diocesan events and on church work all add up, especially given the geographical size of our diocese. Many of our parishes are geographically large and poorly served by public transport, particularly in the rural areas. However, we can all try in our everyday lives to be as efficient and careful as possible in car travel, to use public transport whenever possible, to reduce or avoid air travel, and to

walk or cycle where time is not an issue.

Ideas for Action:

- Choose locations for events and meetings that are accessible by public transport wherever possible, be it at parish, deanery or diocesan level.
- Encourage car sharing and make this explicit on circulated papers.
- Encourage cycling to church and other events
- Use teleconferencing where appropriate.
- Establish ‘walk to church’ Sundays or car-sharing Sundays, depending on your location.
- Audit your car travel and consider ways of reducing your mileage.
- Provide public transport information on church premises.
- Explore the possibility of using church car parks for weekday Park and Ride.
- Provide secure cycle facilities at churches.
- Encourage local authorities, landowners and land use managers to identify/provide ‘Safe Routes to Church and other public destinations’ (e.g. schools and stations).
- Churches can help walking and cycling by allowing walkers/cyclists to cross church land where this would allow a short cut or avoid a traffic conflict situation.
- Encourage the re-dedication of walkways as ‘Shared Use for Walkers, Cyclists and Scooterers’.

- Encourage the creation of ‘Home Zones’ for domestic streets not subject to through traffic.
- Explore the possibility of providing opportunity to experience electric bikes – demonstrations for larger group (e.g. at a clergy meeting or diocesan synod)
- Encourage church members to reduce food miles by buying more food which hasn’t been transported across the globe.
- Offset carbon emissions by investing in schemes for renewable energy generation or in those that absorb carbon, for example planting trees.
- Explore how we can use the world-wide links which parishes have and our diocesan links with Kenya and Sweden to invest in ethical offsetting projects.

Resources to help:

1. www.sustrans.org.uk “a leading UK charity enabling people to travel by foot, bike or public transport for more of the journeys we make every day”
2. www.carplus.org.uk – help in setting up car sharing schemes (households sharing access to one or more cars)
3. For Home Zones see: www.sustrans.org.uk/what-we-do/liveable-neighbourhoods/home-zones
4. Liftshare schemes (where people share car travel on regular journeys) www.liftshare.com
5. www.nationalcarshare.com

6. www.freewheelers.com

7. ...and don't forget www.traveline.org.uk – this site helps you plan your journey on public transport.

Key Area Five: Purchasing and Supplies

‘We are what we buy’. How much we buy for our homes and churches, how we buy, and how much we waste, all affect our carbon footprint.

Ideas for Action:

- Seek to purchase electricity from 100% renewable supplier:
- Use stationery from recycled or sustainably sourced materials.
- Have various recycling facilities at church, e.g. for printer cartridges.
- Eliminate the use of bottled water.
- Avoid using throw-away cutlery and plastic/paper cups and plates.
- Purchase food and drink that meets the LOAF principles (Locally sourced, Organically grown, Animal friendly, Fairly traded).
- Avoid over-catering and use seasonal foods.
- Eat less meat.
- Review how much you use Fairtrade products for refreshments etc and plan how to increase Fairtrade usage.
- Have a regular stall for Fairtrade products.
- Purchase new only when necessary.

Resources to help:

1. The Fairtrade Foundation
www.fairtrade.org.uk
2. Christian Ecology Link (for LOAF principles) www.christian-ecology.org.uk

Across the Diocese and beyond

Reducing our carbon footprint by 80% by 2050 will demand the response of all of us across the diocese and require our working with ecumenical partners and others to achieve this goal. Here are further actions that would enable us to carry out the promises made in the 2010 Synod Resolution:

- Promotional workshops for the Eco-Congregation scheme.
 - Environmental issues to be part of IME, CMD and Reader training.
 - A focus on environment matters at our cathedral, e.g. a dedicated Creation chapel or an annual service.
 - Training days for churchwardens, Treasurers and others to include sessions on reducing energy use etc.
 - Development of resources on the diocesan website
- Use Archdeacons' Articles of Inquiry to encourage and measure progress in carbon reduction.
 - DBF, DAC and Property Services to play a full part in helping to reduce carbon emissions from our churches and clergy houses.
 - Management of church-owned land, including Glebe, to the best environmental and sustainable standards.
 - Sharing stories of good practice through The Month and the diocesan website.
 - Working with ecumenical partners in promoting conferences and seminars and Retreats on environmental issues.
 - Diocesan Board of Education to seek to reduce the carbon footprint of our church schools
 - Encourage giving to the Climate Justice Fund, see www.climatejusticefund.org

FINALLY – GETTING STARTED!

If you are inspired by the above, but just don't know where to begin, you may find the following 'starting checklist' useful:

- **Measure your church's energy consumption using the pro forma under this flap.**
- Install energy saving bulbs throughout church/other buildings.
- Ensure the heating system is governed by a thermostat and time switch at sensible settings.
- Mark one Sunday as Environment Sunday.
- Host a parish environment event, showing a film such as An Inconvenient Truth or The Age of Stupid.
- Sign up for the Eco-Congregation scheme.
- Switch to recycled paper and stationery, stop using disposable cups.

Diocese of Chelmsford Environment Group, June 2011 membership

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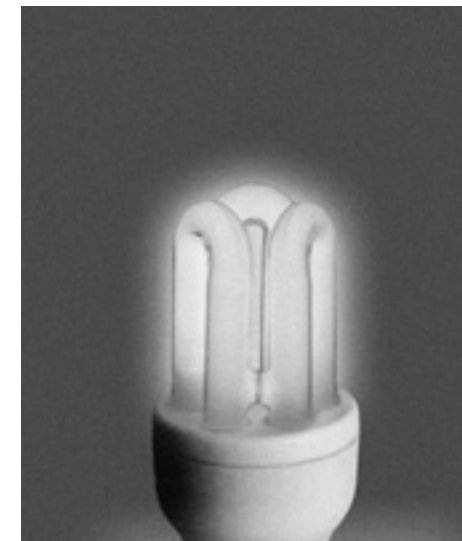
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MEASURING OUR CARBON FOOTPRINT – 2006-2016

Your parish should complete and keep this pro forma now in readiness for implementation of Synod Resolution iv - please see page 2.

Church details – Deanery:

Name of parish: Ref. (if known):

Address of premises (church; hall, etc):

Contact details of person supplying information -

Name & position:

Address:

Post code:

Email address (if available):

Parish Website address (if any):

Type(s) of energy used in this building. Please insert details in the appropriate column(s) opposite.

Indicate number of returns for this parish (places of worship, halls etc.) buildings.

Any additional information (e.g. new building):

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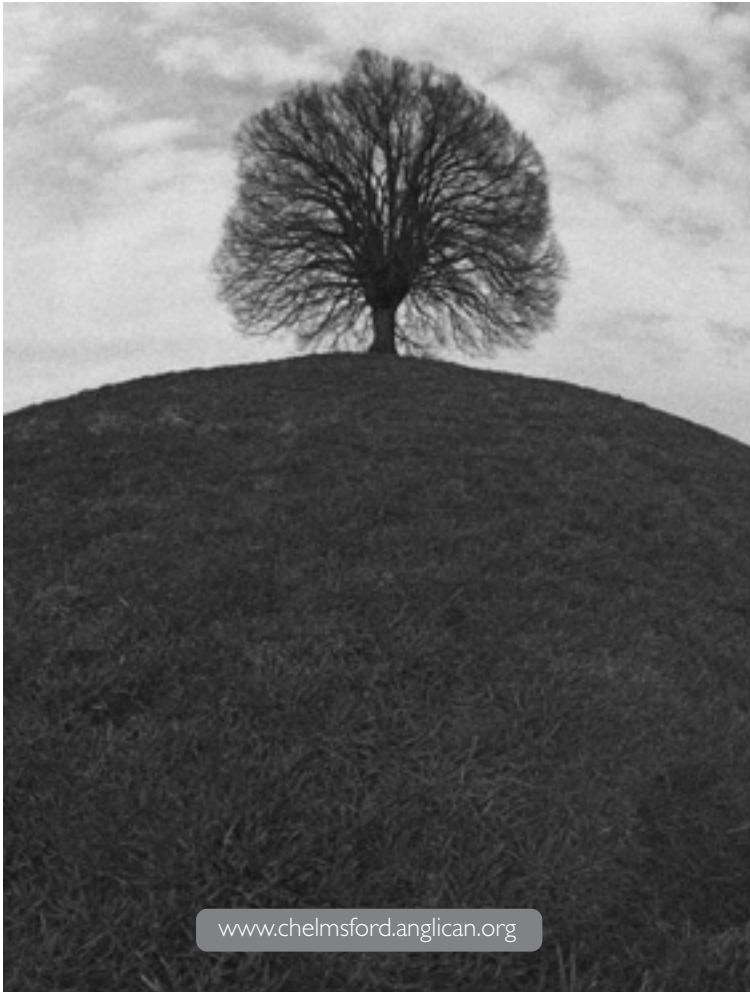
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	Electricity KWh	Gas KWh	Oil litres	Other e.g. calour gas please specify	Notes such as change of use pattern, new boiler, etc
Total units/litres used in 2006 *					
Total units/litres used in 2007 *					
Total units/litres used in 2008 *					
Total units/litres used in 2009					
Total units/litres used in 2010					
Total units/litres used in 2011					
Total units/litres used in 2012					
Total units/litres used in 2013					
Total units/litres used in 2014					
Total units/litres used in 2015					
Total units/litres used in 2016					

* Please complete this data for earlier years if it is available.



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