



HT Heworth

Environmental Mission Statement

Serving our church and community by caring for God's creation, living sustainably and advocating for climate justice

Our Vision

As followers of Christ and stewards of God's creation, we affirm our calling to care for the Earth, our common home. Rooted in Scripture and inspired by the beauty and abundance of God's world, we recognise the urgent need to respond to the climate and ecological crisis with faith, hope, and action.

"In fulfilment of his own purpose He gave us birth by the word of truth, so that we would become a kind of first fruits of his creatures." James 1:18

Having been made in God's image and frequently reminded in scripture of our privileged position in this world, it is easy to overlook the fact that we ourselves are part of God's creation. Humanity's over-consumption of the earth's finite resources has left many unable to fulfil even their most basic needs. As Christians, we aim to fulfil God's purpose in the world and advocate against these injustices and harmful practices.

It is one of the Five Marks of Mission of the Church of England "to strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth."

Our Aims

"The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it."

— Genesis 2:15 (NIV)

We commit ourselves to:

- **Worship and Witness**

We celebrate the beauty and wonder of creation in our worship, giving thanks to God and proclaiming the good news that all things were created through Christ and for Christ. We regularly devote prayer to environmental issues in all its forms, be they political, scientific, or pertaining to social justice.

"For in him all things were created... all things have been created through him and for him."

— Colossians 1:16 (NIV)

- **Sustainable Living**
We seek to live simply and sustainably, reducing our environmental impact through wise use of resources, energy, and materials in our church life and homes, to make best use of resources, buildings, and land to further our environmental aims.
- **Community Engagement**
We encourage one another and our wider community to live in harmony with the Earth, sharing knowledge, resources, and inspiration, fostering a sense of responsibility for care of our natural world. We encourage church members, where possible, to consider making personal lifestyle changes to further care for the earth and reduce our impact on a fragile eco system.
- **Justice and Advocacy**
We stand with those most affected by environmental harm and speak out for justice, especially for the poor and vulnerable.
“Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves... defend the rights of the poor and needy.”
— Proverbs 31:8–9 (NIV)
- **Hopeful Action**
We act not out of fear, but in hope—trusting in God’s promise of renewal and restoration, that what He guides us to do collectively and / or individually really does make a difference.

In all we do, we seek to honour God, love our neighbours, and safeguard the integrity of creation for future generations.

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