

ECO POLICY

St Annes Bagshot



1. Our Christian Calling

As a Church within the Church of England, we accept that caring for God's creation is a fundamental expression of our Christian faith.

We acknowledge the urgent challenge of the climate crisis and accept our part in responding both as individuals and as a church family.

2. Theological and Liturgical Foundations

We are inspired by:

- The Biblical witness of creation's goodness (Genesis 1), and human stewardship (Genesis 2:15)
- The Church of England's commitment to net zero carbon by 2030.
- The Season of Creation / Creationtide (1st September to 4th October) as a time for teaching, prayer, and action.

3. Our Environmental Vision

We seek to become a church that:

- Respects creation as God's gift;
- Reduces its ecological footprint;
- Responds in an active way to the climate emergency;
- Restores the relationship between people and planet.

4. Practical Commitments

Worship and Teaching

- Incorporate creation themes into services regularly with a monthly ECO church service and especially during Creationtide, Harvest festival and other times such as Earth day
- Include prayers for the environment in intercessions.
- Teach environmental stewardship in sermons, youth groups, and home groups.

Energy Use and Carbon Reduction

- Audit our energy use and work toward reducing emissions by reducing our heating and considering "heating the person not the room"
- Transition to renewable energy suppliers where possible.
- Improve heating efficiency in line with the Church of England's Net Zero Carbon Toolkit. Maximise energy efficient lightbulbs, improve insulation where possible and work towards solar energy as a clean sustainable option.

Land and Buildings

- Maintain the churchyard as a haven for biodiversity with native planting and no harmful chemicals.
- Encourage community gardening via our allotment which is used by members of the community such as scouts and cubs or the Miriam Grace Day club.
- Promote wildlife spaces by rewilding an area of the church garden
- Encouraging the Bagshot Bee group who have an apiary on adjacent land

Installing rainwater collection and water-efficient fixtures.

Waste and Consumption

- Avoid single-use plastics at all church events.
- Recycle responsibly and reduce unnecessary consumption. Continue to expand the recycling offer to include plastics, printer cartridges, water filters, bottle tops, batteries and Bras.
- Use environmentally friendly cleaning and office products.

Sustainable Catering

- Prioritise Fairtrade, local, and plant-based food.
- Ensure a vegetarian and vegan option for catered events
- Minimise food waste and promote responsible catering practices.

Travel and Transport

- Encourage walking, cycling, car-sharing and public transport.
- Promote the installation of bicycle racks.
- Assess travel impact of church activities and meetings.

Community Engagement and Advocacy

- Join the Eco Church scheme and work toward Bronze, Silver or Gold award levels.
- Partner with local environmental groups and other ECO groups
- Raise awareness of global climate justice and support initiatives such as Tearfund, Christian Aid, and A Rocha UK.

5. Oversight and Accountability

We will establish an ECO lead and team to:

- Monitor progress and review the ECO policy annually.
- Report regularly to the PCC (Parochial Church Council).
- Encourage wider congregational participation.

6. Review and Renewal

This policy will be reviewed annually at the PCC and updated to reflect theological insights, scientific developments, and local needs.

7. A Prayer for Creation

Dear lord, you made the goodness of the land, the riches of the sea, and the rhythm of the seasons; as we thank you for these gifts may we cherish and respect this planet, and use its resources wisely and faithfully, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Adopted by the PCC of St Annes Bagshot

Date: 7.8.25

Signed:

Vicar:  Revd Andreas Sistig

Churchwarden(s): Carolyn Nahajski & Andy Hall

Eco Lead: Kate Dyerson