

St Augustine's Church, West Monkton

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY¹

We are called as Christians to thoughtfully and carefully manage (steward) the whole of God's creation. As part of this call, we must protect nature and the natural resources we depend upon from damage and abuse and promote social equity by sharing of God's loving provision for us both now, and for future generations.

These principles are summed up by the Anglican Church's fifth ['Mark of Mission'](#)²- 'To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation, and sustain and renew the life of the earth'. At St Augustine's Church, West Monkton, we support the Diocese of Bath and Wells in its commitment to shrinking its own carbon footprint to Net Zero by 2030 and to encourage and equip churches and individual Christians to understand the fifth mark of mission and put it into practice in their worship, work and witness.

Aim - To reduce our carbon footprint, and enhance our local biodiversity to prevent harmful effects on ecosystems (local national and global); living in balance between human needs and ecological sustainability.

How –

Energy use and Heating system – Longer term to install a more efficient heating system to the Church. However, reflecting the high costs to do this, in the short term, after careful evaluation of options, the boiler and radiator system is to be retained and operated to ensure heating is as energy efficient as possible and compliant with Diocese policy; Green Electricity survey conducted in 2023 - advocated replace all lights with LEDs as bulbs need replacing; be prepared to use zoom meetings where appropriate to reduce petrol consumption and provide cycle racks for alternative transport arrangements.

Reuse and recycle - Take away waste from servery for recycling; compost as much as possible of all plant material in church and churchyard; reduce paper consumption by reducing printing documents for PCC and other meetings etc and increasing use of social media, email communication. Avoid the use of single use plastics in our church activities and functions.

Churchyard – working group members aware of flora and fauna in churchyard (wildflower survey 2023 by Wilder Churches) and employ minimal use of chemicals.

Biodiversity - Protect biodiversity in churchyard and surroundings, maintaining grounds and trees to preserve resident wildlife habitats and reducing external lighting to avoid disturbing bats, introducing bird and bat boxes if appropriate. Flexible mowing regime especially in closed churchyard to encourage biodiversity, with piles of wood and leaves for habitat

¹ *This policy is for St Augustine's and sits within the policies set out by the Diocese*

²Click the link: [Environment policy - Bath and Wells Diocese](#)

provision. Seat in churchyard wall constructed to offer habitats for insects encouraged by adjacent plantings of wild herbs.

Eco-Church – undertake an Eco-Church assessment and strive to achieve Bronze accreditation.

Global environment - monthly sale of Fair-Trade products.

Encourage community awareness and participation in local initiatives, and through themed church services and events such as Plough Sunday and our Harvest festival.

Comply with all environmental legislation.