

# ALL SAINTS' CHURCH ILKLEY ECO-BULLETIN

Issue 5  
October 2022

---

## *Introduction*

---

At the June meeting the PCC approved adoption of an environmental action plan for AS to work towards achieving net carbon zero by 2030 and to undertake the actions necessary to become an Eco-Church.

Despite all the hype, COP26 seems to have had little impact and the climate crisis seems to have been largely overshadowed by the covid pandemic, the war in Ukraine and the current cost of living crisis. Even targets set in Paris in 2015 have not been met.

The environmentalists and scientists keep telling us how little time we have to sort it out but it seems to fall on deaf ears despite the abundant evidence of how desperate things are. Yes, things are changing but far too slowly; yes there are success stories but yet not enough to make a real difference. Sometimes it seems as if the whole world is crumbling before our eyes. What sort of a world, if any, will our grandchildren inherit? Will they look at pictures of elephants as we look at pictures of mammoths?

Have we already gone past the tipping point? We must hope not but time is of the essence. "God is able to do more than we might ask or imagine" Ephesians 3v20 so we must pray and work to "strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and to sustain the life of the earth." It is our duty as Christians to protect God's world.

An Environmental sub-group has been established and initial ideas of what is needed to be done have been documented. The PCC agreed to:

Actively and positively pursue the six steps to becoming a Net Zero Emissions church by 2030

Work towards becoming a full Eco-Church in parallel with the above

Adopt an Environmental Policy for AS based on the model policy produced by the Leeds Diocese.

---

## *6 steps to Carbon zero by 2030*

---

- Measure & monitor emissions using an Energy Footprinting Tool.
- Use A Practical Path to Net Zero checklist to plan & prepare
- Identify essential energy actions to reduce church energy use
- Identify essential travel actions to reduce the impact of church related travel
- Identify means to offset all remaining carbon emissions
- Step out and up – by embedding creation care in our weekly worship & discipleship so that we learn together how to love and love as people of Christ in the context of the climate crisis.

---

## *Becoming an Eco- Church*

---

A Rocha UK in partnership with various Christian or church bodies have developed a free extensive online survey to equip churches to express their care for God's world in worship & teaching, looking after the buildings, managing church land, engaging with local communities & global campaigns and in the personal lifestyles of their congregations. The route to becoming an Eco-Church is challenging. The survey covers these 5 areas in 88 questions. It is an excellent way of assessing what we have achieved to date and what else we need to do.

---

## *The Environment Policy*

---

1.To further identify the roles of the Environmental Sub- Group, recognising that there is a great deal to be done and that the Diocesan recommendation of appointing a single ‘Environmental Officer/Champion’ is not necessarily appropriate in the All Saints context. The work required covers several areas and many others will need to be involved as volunteers and appointed leaders (e.g Treasurer, Chair of Fabric Committee, CTI, Mission links etc)

2.Continue to include our concerns for climate change, loss of biodiversity and the health and wellbeing of all world communities in our worship and teaching.

3.Undertake an environmental and energy audit of the Church premises and property, and identify the most significant issues and impacts which should be addressed and make and implement plans and programmes to tackle them, recognising the additional costs that will need to be incurred to achieve some of these actions.

4.We will work with others in our local community to identify environmental issues which should be addressed in our area and help in developing actions to tackle them.

5..As the church’s energy use is arguably its greatest current environmental issue, we will seek to reduce the greenhouse gas emissions of the electricity and gas we use by, amongst other sub-actions, switching to ‘green’ energy suppliers, improving insulation wherever practicable and investigating renewable heating alternatives.

6.We will encourage our staff and congregation to use sustainable forms of transport, including active travel (walking and cycling), public transport, car sharing and using electric/hybrid vehicles.

7.We will take a range of sub-actions to reduce material consumption and the impact of our activities on the environment.

8.We will avoid using water unnecessarily, install water meters where appropriate, check for leakages, fit water minimising systems to taps and cisterns (recognising that some of this has been done already).

9.We will assess our land and property for wildlife and manage them to enhance their biodiversity.

10.We will encourage individual members of our congregations to take actions in their personal lives to complement and supplement these actions being taken by the whole church community.

11 We will participate in the Eco Church programme.

There is much to be done and we need a plenty of volunteers to get our policy up and running and making a difference..

Don’t think that your actions won’t make a difference – they will and furthermore they will encourage others. Actions will grow – Lisa and I took 7 huge bags of medicine blister packs to Superdrug last week!

Let’s share ideas, let’s share the actions.. Nobody has to do everything but everyone should do something – a paraphrase of a poster displayed in The Deep aquarium. The important thing is for us all to do as much as we can.

What are you going to do? Could you be one of the 20 or so volunteers that we think are needed to set things in motion? Don’t think that couldn’t be you. It could. We all have different skills and God can use your skills whatever they are or even show you new ones.

On October 30<sup>th</sup> there will be a Serving All Saints Fair. There will be an environment stall where we will be on hand to hear your thoughts, suggestions and, most importantly, accept offers of help.

See you there!

Clive, Kathy, Felicity & Lisa – The Environment Sub-group.

---

*Where do we go  
from here*

---