



## Introduction

The message “choose life, so that you and your children might live” (Deuteronomy 30:19) expressed by Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury, calls for the need to change the way we live our lives for the future of everyone on the planet. This policy follows the example set by Justin Welby who has said: ‘To live out my Christian faith is to follow Jesus. That must include standing alongside the most vulnerable and marginalized on the frontlines of the climate emergency. As faith communities my prayer is that we might stand together, emissaries of hope and love, calling for God’s justice and peace upon this precious world. Now is the time for action.’

At the heart of all we do within Canterbury Diocese is a vision of transformation for ourselves and our communities: no one can encounter God and remain unchanged. Our Diocese believes that care for creation is fundamental to our mission and in November 2019 the Diocesan Synod decided that this should be a key strand of our strategy: Changed Lives ► Changing Lives.

### Our commitment

The Diocese of Canterbury is registered as an Eco Diocese and is committed to striving to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life on earth<sup>1</sup>.

We will do this by:

- ❖ Learning the facts about environmental issues, including human-induced climate change;
- ❖ Speaking the truth about the changes that are needed to safeguard our natural world on which we all depend;
- ❖ Taking the necessary action to reduce Greenhouse Gas emissions to net zero by 2030 in accordance with the November 2019 Diocesan Synod<sup>2</sup> and the February 2020 General Synod<sup>3</sup> motions;
- ❖ Fighting social injustices caused by the climate crisis and environmental pollution.

<sup>1</sup> This is the fifth mark of mission of the Anglican community: (<https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2017-11/MTAG%20The%205%20Marks%20of%20Mission.pdf>).

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.canterburydiocese.org/missionandministry/caring-for-creation/>.

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/news/general-synod-sets-2030-net-zero-carbon-target>.

## Our principles

As Christians we live by a creation mandate to be good stewards of God's world (Genesis 1:26-31) and celebrate with the Psalmist that "The Earth is the Lord's". We do this through our love of God and of our neighbour (Mark 12:30-31). The Christian charity Operation Noah sums up a Christian response to climate change as needing to be Faith-motivated, Science-informed and Hope-inspired. As a Diocese we hold on to this three-dimensional approach to engagement with environment issues.

Within this three-dimensional approach we are committed to the principles of:

- Complying with environmental legislation.
- Taking action to address environmental issues, particularly climate change.
- Promoting biodiversity including managing land for carbon reduction across the Diocese.
- Minimising the use of finite natural resources (including water) and using, as far as possible, renewable or recycled resources.
- Minimising waste (including avoiding the use of disposable plastics) and applying the principle of: reduce, reuse, recycle.
- Minimising energy use from travel (e.g. avoiding the need to travel and where travel is necessary using public transport, using electric cars, cycling or walking).
- Applying ethical and green procurement procedures and using fairly traded and environmentally friendly products.
- Managing investments in line with ethical principles.
- Praying about and campaigning on environmental issues.

## Our aims

Our aims in delivering this policy are:

- To lead our Diocese in caring for creation, reducing emissions to net zero by 2030 and in demonstrating good environmental practice.
- To join with the wider Anglican community, other denominations and faiths in supporting pro-environmental initiatives, including the Church of England Environment Programme.
- To encourage churches, schools and others within the Diocese to take action in caring for creation and to register as Eco Churches or Eco Schools.
- To provide information and resources to support action for the environment by all, and to encourage the sharing of good practice.
- To fulfil the requirements of being an Eco Diocese and strive for higher awards.

These aims will be achieved through the delivery of the Care for the Environment Strategy and Action Plan.