



St. Michael & All Angels

CHURCH IN THE PARK | LIVING, LOVING, SERVING

St Michael and All Angels Church Hughenden

Environmental Policy April 2025

The vision of St Michaels Church Hughenden is to know God's love and to share that love with everyone. Our Church family will actively contribute to the life of our local community and be accessible and welcoming.

Within this vision we are committed to Caring for Creation. We strive to live out the practical implications of this goal in the management and care of our church and grounds. As a church we understand our buildings and grounds are part of the natural environment and community's heritage.

"The Earth is the Lords and everything in it" and we act as responsible stewards of creation as a church family and as individuals. We are fortunate that our church and its grounds are nestled within the designated 'Chilterns National Landscape '(Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, AONB) and within the grounds of Hughenden National Trust Park. The church is on the national 'List of Buildings of Special Architectural or Historic Interest 'as Grade II* and Church House is Grade II. This policy seeks to present a framework for the practical outworking of this vision and value and where possible enhance the environment, local biodiversity and heritage of our buildings to ensure we continue to serve our community responsibly.

Vision

At Hughenden church, we aim to show our love of God and community through seeking to understand more fully the world and our calling within it; caring for our buildings and land in environmentally friendly ways; transforming our activities to make them just and sustainable; and advocating for creation care and environmental justice in our local and global communities.

Actions

1. Worship, Teaching and Mission, Youth and Children's Work

As a church community, we will incorporate care for creation in our mission, worship, study, education, pastoral, administrative and other events.

We will include the importance of care for creation in our worship, teaching and mission in our work with children and young people.

2. Parish Environmental Champion

We will appoint a person as our Parish Environmental Representative/Champion to lead our programme and encourage them to bring relevant environmental issues and concerns forward to the PCC on a regular basis.

3. Eco Church

We will continue to participate in the A Rocha Eco Church scheme, which delivers the principles outlined in this policy, and actively seek to progress through the awards to gold.

4. Buildings and Energy

We will use our environmental and energy audit of the church premises and property to identify the most significant issues and impacts to be addressed. Advising on plans to implement these issues and programmes to tackle them, recognising that some additional costs may be incurred to minimise the environmental impact.

5. Reporting on Energy Use and Carbon Footprint

We will undertake to calculate and report annually on our church's carbon footprint annually using the Parish Return 'Energy Footprint Tool'.

6. Tackling our Energy Use and Carbon Footprint

We will put in place an action plan striving to be a carbon net zero church by 2030 in line with the national Church of England target. In seeking to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions we will:

Commit to continuing with "green" energy suppliers (renewably generated electricity) as appropriate.

Take a fabric first approach with a focus on minimising energy use and maximising energy efficiency:

- Fit LED light bulbs in our church and church house.
- Improve insulation wherever practicable and appropriate in a listed building
- Turn off lights, appliances and computers when not in use
- Consider replacing the old, inefficient boilers where practicable and investigate renewable heating alternatives, always considering the church's position in the National Trust park and limitations on our church as a Grade II* listed building, its rural siting, location within the Chilterns National Landscape (Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty) and distance from the main road.
- Make efficient use of our energy and water minimizing waste.
- Plan major and minor building works in the context of our net zero ambitions.

7. Lifestyle

We will encourage all those running events, both members of Hughenden Church and members of the public, to follow the principles outlined in this policy. Particularly, to consider how they can be energy efficient and how they travel to and from the Church.

We will ensure that resources purchased are environmentally friendly where possible and adhere to our Fairtrade principles when food and hospitality are offered.

We follow the principles of 'reduce, re-use and recycle' wherever possible so that landfill waste is minimised.

8. Transport

Staff and volunteers: for all Hughenden Church related activities, we will encourage sharing transport, wherever possible to reduce the environmental impact. Whilst recognizing the location of

the church in the park, where public transport does not pass the door and is infrequent along the main road.

9. Food

We will raise awareness among the congregation of the environmental impact of food and aim to help our community to enjoy healthy, seasonal food with a low environmental impact. Also minimizing waste and recycling any waste food.

We will undertake an annual environmental audit with our congregation to encourage individuals to take responsibility for the impact and actions of their lifestyle.

We will continue our commitment as a Fairtrade church.

We will assist in reducing/offsetting our carbon footprint wherever possible.

10. Community and Global Engagement

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

We will advocate for climate justice globally as well as locally.

12. Mission Giving

We will consider supporting one or more mission partners who are working to care for the environment or to support those who are adversely affected by climate change

13. Resilience

We will consider how our church is vulnerable to extreme weather from climate change and develop a climate resilience plan. For example, upgrading rainwater goods, drainpipes, water collection to cope with intense rainfall, tree planting to provide shading in heatwaves, hedges for strong wind protection.

This policy and programme will be reviewed every three years or in light of developments and changes Nationally and Locally.

Next review date – April 2028.

Julia Grant - Ecochurch Hughenden

Useful Resources

Diocese of Oxford Environment Action website pages: www.oxford.anglican.org/environment-and-social-justice

Diocese of Oxford EcoHub: [EcoHub Homepage \(anglican.org\)](http://EcoHubHomepage(anglican.org))

Church of England Environment Programme Webinar:
<https://www.churchofengland.org/about/environment-and-climate-change/webinars-getting-net-zero-carbon>

Church of England Net Zero Carbon Church Guidance:
<https://www.churchofengland.org/resources/churchcare/net-zero-carbon-church>

Eco Church, A Rocha Greening the Lectionary: <https://ecochurch.arocha.org.uk>
<https://www.greeningthelectionary.net/441901152>

www.caringforgodsacre.org.uk

Historic England (environmental performance and historic buildings):
<https://historicengland.org.uk/advice/technical-advice/energy-efficiency-and-historic-building>