

Updated according to July PCC minutes.

St John's Purchasing Policy

27 September 2021

Introduction

We believe that as part of our care of creation we should act in a way that demonstrates good biblical stewardship¹ in all areas of our corporate life. We are a Carbon Neutral organisation but do not track the wider Carbon Footprint of our supply chain. The decisions that we make when buying can therefore positively influence this and other ethical and environmental issues such as protections of habitats and biodiversity, animal welfare, other environmental impacts and fair employment practices.

This will involve sourcing all the products we use in a way that: reduces miles travelled, encourages good animal welfare, reduces harmful impact on the environment, both direct and indirect, and takes into account the environmental cost of waste and end of life recycling.

LOAF

We will endeavour to follow [Green Christian's LOAF principles](#) when procuring food using Church finances. LOAF stands for Local, Organic, Animal-Friendly and Fairtrade and is a simple and memorable way to consider God's creation when food-shopping.

Fairtrade

We will endeavour to buy Fairtrade products when using Church finances. Fairtrade is about better prices, decent working conditions, local sustainability, and fair terms of trade for farmers and workers in the developing world.

Plastic

We will endeavour to try to reduce the amount of plastic that we use in the church and the church centre as much as possible.

Paper

We will endeavour to try and only buy paper products made from recycled post-consumer waste.

Cleaning Products

We will endeavour to only use Eco-friendly cleaning products and will encourage our cleaning supplier to do the same.

The Parish of St John's Hartley Wintney

Fleet Road, Hartley Wintney, Hook, Hampshire. RG278ED | Registered Charity No: 1130172
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Energy

We will only use 100% renewable electricity and 100% green or offset gas. We will reduce our energy use where possible and generate our own where we can.

Implementation

It is expected that this policy will apply to the following:

A. Church-bought, church-cooked food. We should follow the above policy. Examples:

- BBQs
- Saturday bacon
- Mens and womens' breakfasts
- Youth events
- Worship team nights
- Ad hoc events e.g. leaving lunches
- 'Hungry' meals

B. For donated food. The policy is for awareness only. We hope you will choose to follow these principles when you can. We will publicise this policy to the church congregation and Church Centre users. Examples:

- Bring-and-shares
- Alpha suppers
- Food donated to coffee shop
- Staff team meals

LOAF

Local

Our preferred option is to buy local and seasonal wherever possible and avoid air-freighted produce. Examples of this might be:

- Salads and British vegetables to be summer staples
- Coleslaw, apples, pickles and British vegetables served during the winter months
- You can't get more local than garden and allotment produce!

Organic

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We look out for organic produce to support farmers who are working with nature. Organic animal products are the kindest to animals.

Animal-friendly

St John's high animal welfare code of practice (see below) is based on [*The Christian Ethics of Farmed Animal Welfare: A Policy Framework for Churches and Christian Organizations*](#)

- All Church-bought, church-cooked meat, eggs and dairy should be [free-range](#) or [RSPCA-assured](#).
- We will also work to reduce the quantity of meat that is consumed.

Other food actions:

- Consider using plant-based alternatives when planning meals
- Please buy free-range eggs - they are easy to find
- For lamb, buy British
- For beef and dairy, the best option is Organic, Pasture For Life or any Waitrose.
- Tesco milk does not ordinarily comply with our animal welfare policy but Tesco Organic does (9p/2l extra = £175 uplift/year for 35l/week)
- Free-range bacon can be found at Morrisons and Costco (Spoilt Pig brand)
- Free-range sausages can be found at Waitrose
- Free-range chicken can be found at Waitrose
- Farmed Salmon should be RSPCA-assured
- Other fish should be Marine Stewardship Council certified
- We are working towards having a nut-free environment

Fairtrade

- Use Kingdom Coffee in our coffee shop, which is Fairtrade, Ethical and also a family and local business.
- Please also look for the Fairtrade label when buying tea, chocolate and bananas.
- When purchasing non-food items, e.g. T-shirts, also look for the Fairtrade label

Plastic

- Where possible use jugs and glasses of tap water, rather than buying bottled water.
- Use eco-friendly hand wash in a reusable dispenser in the toilets.
- Plastic-free packaging when you can, and where it does not compromise hygiene.
- Homemade/church-made cakes etc should not need plastic packaging.
- We try to use environmental alternatives to plastic packaging for takeaway meals.

Paper

Paper must be 100% recycled, with low carbon footprint. (Don't be fooled with the 'recyclable' label.)

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Recommendations:

- [Toilet paper –Decision by PCC needed](#)
- Kitchen blue roll - Nisbets (not Costco)
- Kitchen hand towels - Jantex, folded, blue, white or green - Nisbets
- Printer paper - Office Depot – 100% recycled, A4, 80gsm (30% higher cost)

[Please see here for background information and prices on recycled paper](#)

Cleaning Products

- The Church Centre is moving towards using solely Eco-friendly cleaning products. Soap dispensers will be refilled from a bulk 5l container by the key holders in the Creation Care Group.
- The church and Church Centre are cleaned by a cleaning company. We are requesting that they use eco-friendly products.

Energy

- Our electricity and gas are currently procured from suppliers that generate equivalent renewable supply and/or increase the capacity for renewable energy
- We buy LED light bulbs, or low energy where LEDs are not appropriate

Promotion and implementation of these policies

The Clergy, PCC, Staff Team and Church Centre Management Committee are responsible for promotion and implementation of these policies.

ⁱBiblical principles

Genesis 1:1,31; Nehemiah 9:6; Psalm 104
Deuteronomy 10:14; Psalm 24:1
John 1:3; Colossians 1:15-16
Psalm 33:5-6; Psalm 145:9
Genesis 9:9-10; Hosea 2:18
Job 12:7-10; Psalm 19:1-4; Romans 1:20
Psalm 96:11-13; Psalm 148; Isaiah 55:12
Psalm 65:9-13; Colossians 1:17; Hebrews 1:3
Genesis 2:15; Leviticus 25:23,24
Matt 22:39; Luke 10:25-37

*God created the world to be good
The earth is the Lord's
It was created through and for Jesus
God loves his creation
God loves animals
Creation reveals its Creator
Creation praises its Creator
God sustains his creation
We are charged with its care
We must love our neighbour*

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