

## Policy on Buildings Management

13 July 2021

### Introduction

We believe that as part of our care of creation we should act in a way that demonstrates good biblical stewardship<sup>i</sup> in all areas of our corporate life. We are a Carbon Neutral organisation that has committed to reduce our impact on the planet and offset the impact that cannot be reduced. Our buildings are one of the biggest contributors to our Carbon Footprint and it is therefore crucial to manage them using biblical principles<sup>1</sup>. The way we run our buildings can positively influence this and other ethical issues such as animal welfare, other environmental impacts and fair employment practices.

This will involve considering the following: reducing miles travelled, encouraging good animal welfare, reducing harmful impact on the environment, both direct and indirect, and taking into account the environmental cost of waste and end of life recycling.

### Energy use

We will reduce our energy use in our buildings by careful management of their use.

### Waste

We will reduce food waste wherever possible. We will use reusable items rather than disposables where possible. We will reduce our paper usage where we can.

### Land

We will manage our church grounds to encourage native wildlife.

### Recycling

We will recycle as much of our waste as is possible.

## Implementation

### Energy use

- Most lights in the Church Centre are on a timer or motion sensor. The kitchen light is the exception. Please turn off the kitchen light on exiting the kitchen.
- Lights and heating in the Church and Church Centre are timed to be on for the minimum time required for comfort and safety. Please do not override these timers without agreement with the Operations Manager
- The floodlighting outside the church is for security only and is motion-sensitive
- The floodlight inside the Church Centre should only be used on special occasions e.g. Carol Service.

### Waste

We can reduce food waste by:

- Judging carefully the quantity of food we need to cook
- Encourage people to take home what is left
- Freeze and refrigerate in a timely manner
- Reuse whenever possible safely

We can reduce the use of disposables by:

- Using reusable items rather than disposables where possible e.g.
  - Crockery mugs and plates
  - Filling personal travel cups in the coffee shop

We can reduce the use of paper by:

- Sending electronic files securely in Office365 rather than printing files to send.
- Not printing copies of electronic communication.
- Always considering whether there is an alternative to printing.

### Land

- St John's land is managed for the encouragement of native wildlife
- Any trees planted will be native trees where not required to replace like-for-like e.g. Giant Redwood
- Our church avoids the use of harmful chemicals (pesticides, herbicides or fertilizers) in the management of our land (excluding paths and driveways)
- Mow-free May will be considered this year - though this may not be appropriate for weddings and funerals

## Recycling

Blue bin takes only:

- Plastic bottles
- Can and tins
- Clean, dry paper and card

Please put in ordinary rubbish bin:

- Any plastic that is not a bottle e.g. yogurt pots
- Plastic bags, clingfilm
- Tissues/paper towels
- Shredded paper
- Gift wrap
- Tetra-pack cartons

Other recycling

- Glass bottles and jars are placed separately
- Batteries can be recycled at the Victoria Hall

[The Purple bin](#) takes a variety of packaging

## 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.

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### <sup>i</sup> Biblical 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*