

Diocese of Ripon and Leeds

Resources for Mission

Caring for God's Earth



***Working together to shrink our carbon footprint
and to safeguard the integrity of creation***



***A Practical Guide produced by the Environment Group of
the Diocese of Ripon and Leeds***

Shrinking the Footprint

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND'S NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL CAMPAIGN



The Challenge and the Opportunity for God's people.....



"In the 21st century in an interconnected world, practising love of neighbours means that we are committed to mitigate the effects of climate change which will fall disproportionately on the poor and vulnerable in the world and those least able to adapt to rising temperatures and sea levels."






The Bishop of London the Rt Revd Richard Chartres, chair of Shrinking the Footprint.

So why is this mission?

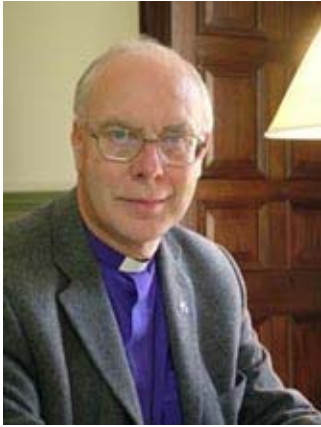
The Anglican Consultative Council put forward the following statement on mission, which was adopted by the Bishops of the Lambeth Conference in 1988 and by the General Synod of the Church of England in 1996

Mission - The Five Marks of Mission

The Mission of the Church is the mission of Christ

-  To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom
-  To teach, baptise and nurture new believers
-  To respond to human need by loving service
-  To seek to transform unjust structures of society
-  **To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth**

Foreword



Caring for God's Earth can seem an impossible challenge. As I write we watch scenes of Pakistani floods on television and feel a sense of helplessness.

This booklet is the antidote to that helplessness. It gives us ways, as individuals and churches, in which we can begin to correct the imbalances created by climate change. It divides what seems overwhelming into bite-sized chunks, so that every one of us can play our part in a global enterprise.

It also provides a Christian basis for that work. We have a responsibility under God for all humanity, created in the image of God, and for whose redemption Christ died. Many of our fellow human beings are suffering now from environmental change. We are also given by the New Testament a vision of a whole creation 'set free from its bondage to decay and obtaining the freedom of the glory of the children of God' (Romans 8, v. 23). It is well worth while for parishes to explore the basis of our commitment by using one of the courses mentioned here, as well as deciding on the practical outcomes which are appropriate for you and your church.

Challenging the damage done by environmental change is a matter of justice. It is those with least in the first place who suffer most. I am grateful to Adrian Alker and all who have contributed to this booklet – now it is up to all of us to make this Christian obligation real in our own lives and that of our churches. So let us live for that for which we pray.

September 2010

John Packer
Bishop of Ripon and Leeds

Why this document?

In 2007, the Diocesan Synod of the Diocese of Ripon and Leeds endorsed an **Environment Policy** which forms the basis of our commitment as a diocese and as parishes to care for God's creation. This policy is on the diocesan website. Since then the challenge of climate change has become increasingly important for the future of our planet. There is a well-established scientific consensus that human activity is having a greatly damaging effect on the environment. In particular scientists have a high degree of certainty that human production of "greenhouse gases" mainly through the burning of fossil fuels is accelerating global warming. The rise in sea levels and the desertification of many countries is already having an impact upon millions of our fellow global citizens.

'Church and Earth 2009- 2016' is the Church of England's seven year plan on climate change and the environment. **The challenge laid before the Church of England is to commit ourselves to a reduction of 80% in our carbon footprint by 2050.** The Church is also challenged to cut its carbon footprint by at least 42% by 2020, in line with the recommendation of the UK Committee on Climate Change.

'Caring for God's Earth' This booklet builds on the environmental policy of the diocese. It is focused on challenging our diocese, parishes and individual Christians with the task of reducing our carbon footprint, using our influence to bring about policy change and in other ways of being good stewards of God's world. The following pages give detailed help and resources to enable all parishes to respond to this important task.

There are **five key areas of strategy**, followed by further resources and a plan of action. This booklet points you to some of the many sources of information and help to enable us to reduce our carbon footprint. Much is already happening in our diocese and in our parishes and we can learn from each other. Members of the **Diocesan Environment Group** are on hand to help and advise parishes. Please do contact the group through me or my secretary at the Diocesan Office, tel 0113 2000 547

Adrian Alker, Director of Mission Resourcing
October 2010

Key Area One : Theology and Liturgy

Our starting point is that we are all creatures living in relationship with our Creator. This influences not only how we relate to our fellow living creatures, but with everything that is created. We belong to creation as much as being stewards of it.

Care for the earth is founded upon **relationship**:

- **a relationship between Creator and created**, founded upon dignity with humility, and a gratitude which counts every created thing precious, with an innate value, not to be squandered
- **a relationship between every created being and every other**, which acknowledges that human power, ability and knowledge brings responsibilities of restraint, service and integrity. To be made “in the image of God” is not foremost a gift of power - God’s exercise of power is self-sacrificial - but a gift of compassion and love in community.
- **a relationship in community**, experienced throughout the human family. We can already see how the effects of ill-judged environmental behaviour are often felt first and most severely by the poorest communities, who pay the price for the actions of others. Seeking a sustainable future is part of a Christian commitment to a fairer and more equitable world.
- **a relationship within the whole created order**. Genesis 1 sets humanity within a balanced order resonant with goodness, giving human beings responsibility for the stewardship and care of the created world.
- **a relationship with the material world** in which the Word was made flesh, hallowing our physicality.












It is this **relatedness and respect for the whole of creation under God**, which is at the core of our thinking and acting as the people of God. This theological starting point we also share with people of other faiths.

Our worship will therefore from time to time give special focus on these matters. Christian liturgies declare that in Christ, God has reconciled the world to God’s self; God’s saving purpose is not just for the individual but for the whole creation.

Therefore we ask parishes, through their ordained and lay leadership to encourage reflection, thanksgiving, prayer and prophecy in these environmental matters.

Ideas for Action:

-  Promote an 'Environment Sunday on a date to suit your parish
-  Use Harvest to celebrate different aspects of Creation and raise environmental issues
-  Arrange a screen showing of challenging films e.g.. The Age of Stupid and/or An Inconvenient Truth (available from the Resources Centre)
-  Use Advent or Lent to run a study course (see page 14)
-  Encourage prayers on the environment
-  Find ways of embedding environmental concerns into worship
-  Invite your local councillors to discuss what local government is doing to reduce carbon emissions
-  Ask members of your congregation to lobby your MP to seek a global agreement on lowering carbon emissions
-  Hold services of celebration for the goodness of Creation and raise awareness of environmental concerns with other parishes in your deanery and ecumenical partners






Resources to help:

1. The Christian Ecology Link website is outstandingly good for resource (study material, worship ideas) www.christian-ecology.org.uk
2. The Iona Community has produced a number of liturgies relevant to Creation. Their publications/ downloads are on www.ionabooks.com Much of their material is also in the Learning Resource Centre
3. Collections of prayers in the Celtic tradition by David Adams and others; books such as 'Creation at Worship' by Christopher Voke and 'Don't stop at the Lights' by Clare Foster and David Shreeve offer theological background and practical ideas for use in the Church's year.
4. Christian Aid has produced a number of resources on climate change, including a booklet by Paula Clifford, 'All Creation Groaning' www.christianaid.org.uk
5. Campaigning groups such as Christian Aid, Tear Fund, Tidal, WDM offer help and ideas re lobbying and other actions.
6. Visual resources to use before or during worship: A useful power point aid on 20 energy saving tips: <http://sites.google.com/site/4cleeds/>






Key Area Two : Energy Use at church and at home

In this section we suggest ways to measure, assess and reduce our carbon footprint, as a church in the community and in our individual lives. By encouraging members of our churches to talk about their own efforts to 'save the planet' we can learn from each other. We can work with outside agencies and other community organisations.

Ideas for Action :

-  *Audit energy use in your church, church hall and your own home*
-  *Set a target to reduce your carbon footprint year on year*
-  *Examine carefully your heating/ventilating/lighting and floodlighting provision and how energy may be saved*
-  *If you don't already have one such person, appoint an environment representative from your congregation to coordinate your efforts and liaise with others. Better still build up an eco – cell or eco team!*
-  *Review your recycling actions at church and at home and see if there can be any improvement*



-  *Review how much you use Fairtrade products for refreshments etc and plan how to increase Fairtrade usage*
-  *Purchase green electricity*
-  *Encourage greater re-use, repair and recycling of materials*
-  *Assess the ecological value of your church land/graveyard and develop its potential for biodiversity*
-  *Use the parish magazine to publish green tips and raise awareness of environmental issues*

Resources to help (overleaf):

You may already be doing many of the above suggestions and lots more. If not, don't be overwhelmed, there are many resources to help and we list some overleaf. There are other sources of advice which appear in this booklet and on our website.

1. **Doing an energy audit and reducing the carbon footprint of your church/hall/school**

Detailed help and advice can be found on the Church of England's Shrinking the Footstep website:

www.shrinkingthefootprint.cofe.anglican.org

There you will find sections relevant to churches, halls, schools, clergy homes and offices with further appendices such as how to measure your carbon footprint, replace equipment etc.

2. **Green spaces**

'Caring for God's Acre' is a conservation charity for churchyards and burial grounds www.caringforgodsacre.org.uk

More locally there are two organisations which can offer help and advice over green spaces : Yorkshire Wildlife Trust- www.ywt.org.uk - and Groundwork UK who have regional staff in Leeds and North Yorkshire www.groundwork.org.uk



3. **Recycling**

We have all become better at reusing, reducing and recycling in order to lessen our carbon footprint. But could we do more? Waste is a major challenge for all in the rich world. One hundred million tonnes of waste is sent to landfill each year and the space for this is set to run out in five years. 40% of household waste can be composted at home, reducing methane emissions compared to landfill. One tonne of recycled paper, or 100 bin bags full of recycled paper would save the felling of 17 trees and would save the 17,000 gallons of water which is required to produce that amount of paper. The energy saved by recycling this amount of paper rather than producing paper from scratch would be enough to heat the average home for 6 months. There are a number of helpful websites which might stretch our thinking and acting.

www.recycle-more.co.uk

www.recycling-guide.org.uk

www.recyclenow.com

Key Area Three : Buildings









The Church of England as a whole has been challenged to reduce its carbon footprint by 80% by 2050. This target will only be achievable if we reduce the carbon footprint of our buildings. Buildings of all kinds account for 45% of carbon emissions in the UK: from non domestic buildings (18%) and homes

(27%). Therefore Church owned buildings (churches, halls, houses and offices) make a significant contribution to our carbon footprint.

Environmental issues must be at the forefront of our planning, especially with new building. For our existing places of worship, the accepted criteria for insulation and energy use in residential and commercial buildings may be difficult to apply, especially on heritage listed buildings., the Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC) can advise on what steps might be worthwhile (Pictured above : the ecofriendly parish centre at St Margaret's, Horsforth, Leeds)

Ideas for Action:

-  Church Councils and others responsible for Churches and other property can take steps to conserve energy (see previous section)
-  Explore more sharing of buildings and resources between churches and with other community groups
-  The archdeacons will encourage parishes to undertake an energy audit and set reduction targets
-  The Housing and Estates Committee of the diocese will establish a programme of improvements to parsonages to reduce carbon emissions
-  The DAC in its responsibilities will make carbon reduction of central concern
-  The Diocesan Office has already taken measures to reduce its carbon footprint and has embarked on Eco-Congregation modules

Resources to help:











-  C. of E. website : www.shrinkingthe footprint.cofe.anglican.org
-  The Carbon Trust will give you detailed information on calculating your carbon footprint - www.carbontrust.co.uk
-  The Energy Saving Trust : www.energysavingtrust.org.uk
-  The Diocesan Surveyor is able to give advice over buildings. Contact the Diocesan Office on 0113 2000 549
-  Diocesan Advisory Committee advises on alterations and improvements to churches. Tel 0113 2000 542

Key Area Four: Transport and Travel

Travel is one of the bigger contributors to carbon emissions. Car travel to church, diocesan events and on church work all add up. Many of our parishes are geographically large and poorly served by public transport. However we can all try in our everyday lives to be as efficient and careful as possible in car travel and to endeavour to reduce our air travel.



Ideas for Action:

-  Choose locations for events and meetings that are accessible by public transport wherever possible, be it at parish, deanery or diocesan level
-  Provide secure cycle facilities at churches
-  Encourage car sharing and make this explicit on circulated papers
-  Use teleconferencing where appropriate
-  Establish 'walk to church' Sundays or car sharing Sundays, depending on your location
-  Audit your car travel and consider ways of reducing your mileage
-  Provide public transport information on church premises
-  Explore the possibility of church car parks for weekday park and ride
-  Explore the possibility of providing opportunity to experience electric bikes - demonstrations for larger group (e.g. at a clergy meeting or diocesan synod)
-  Encourage church members to reduce food miles by buying more food which hasn't been transported across the globe

We can offset carbon emissions by either investing in schemes for renewable energy generation or those that absorb carbon, for example planting trees. We might explore how we can use the world-wide links which parishes have and our diocesan link with Sri Lanka, to invest in ethical offsetting projects.

Resources to help:

Useful transport websites: www.carplus.org.uk - help in setting up car sharing schemes (households sharing access to one or more cars), Liftshare schemes (where people share car travel on regular journeys) www.liftshare.com, www.nationalcarshare.com, www.freewheelers.comand don't forget www.traveline.org.uk - this site helps you plan your journey on public transport.

Key Area Five: Purchasing and Supplies

‘We are what we buy’. How much we buy for our homes and churches and how much we waste effects our carbon footprint. In this section we offer a range of suggestions if you have not already taken these measures.

Ideas for Action:

- ✚ Seek to purchase electricity from 100% renewable supplier
- ✚ Use stationery from recycled or sustainably sourced materials
- ✚ Have various recycling facilities at church eg for printer cartridges
- ✚ Eliminate the use of bottled water whenever possible
- ✚ Discourage the use of throw away cutlery and plastic/paper cups and plates
- ✚ Purchase food and drink that meets the LOAF principles (**L**ocally- sourced, **O**rganically grown, **A**nimal-friendly, **F**airly traded), avoid over-catering, use seasonal foods; use of meat should be minimized due to its dramatically larger carbon footprint than vegetable sourced protein.
- ✚ Seek to use Fairtrade products wherever possible
- ✚ Have a regular stall for Fairtrade products
- ✚ Purchase new only when necessary

Resources to help:

The Diocesan World Development Officer can advise on Fairtrade **Contact the diocesan office**

The Fairtrade Foundation www.fairtrade.org.uk

Christian Ecology Link (for LOAF principles) www.christian-ecology.org.uk



This completes the five key areas of action to help us reduce our carbon footprint as a church and as individuals. The following pages contain more ideas and information.



Parishes and the Diocesan Office gain Ecocongregation status!

Established now for many years and used by many parishes, the Eco-Congregation toolkit is a splendid way in which a parish can sign up to undertake different modules and become an 'Eco-Congregation'. These modules range over all aspects of church life and the environment and can involve all members and ages within a congregation. Full details and information is on the Eco-Congregation website: www.ecocongregation.org. Some members of the diocesan environment group belong to parishes which have gained the Eco-Congregation award and are willing to talk about the scheme and mentor your parish.

The **Diocesan Office** has undertaken the modules and is on the way to becoming the first diocesan office to gain the award. Visitors to the diocese will often come to the diocesan office in Leeds and the staff there feel that we should be at the forefront of ways to 'green' the office and set a good example of carbon reduction. To this end the office purchases green electricity and recycled stationery, has abandoned disposable cups and tries to be sparing in the use of lighting (which is low energy). The office uses fairly traded catering products, environmentally friendly cleaning products, has developed a wild garden area in the grounds (see the picture) and has entered the eco congregation award scheme. Contact the office for more details or better still come and see us (by public transport if you can!)



So too the **Diocese** is aiming to become an eco – diocese and this depends on many factors, including over 50% of our parishes completing an environment audit.

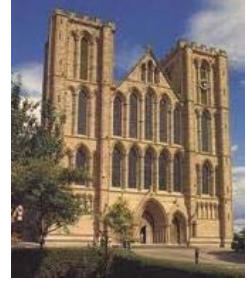
Across the Diocese and beyond

Reducing our carbon footprint by 80% by 2050 will demand the response of all of us across the diocese and our working with ecumenical partners and others to achieve this goal. Below are listed some actions, to which the Diocese is committing itself, in the hope that parishes will follow suit.

-  *promotional workshops for the Eco-Congregation scheme*
-  *Environmental issues to be part of CME and Reader training*
-  *A focus on environment matters at our cathedral, possibly through the use of the Creation chapel, an annual service and other ways*
-  *Training days for churchwardens and others to include sessions on Eco-Congregations etc*
-  *The development of resources on the diocesan website*
-  *The occasional use of archdeacons' articles to encourage and measure progress in carbon reduction*
-  *The DAC and the Housing and Estates Committee to play a full part in helping to reduce the carbon emissions from our churches and clergy houses*
-  *The management of Church owned land, including Glebe, to the best environmental and sustainable standards.*
-  *Sharing stories of good practice through 'Together' and elsewhere*
-  *Working with our ecumenical partners and the Leeds Church Institute in promoting conferences and seminars on environmental issues and other groups such as Tidal, 4C and REAP*
-  *Working with the Diocesan Board of Education to reduce the carbon footprint of our church schools*

Ripon Cathedral

Two years ago, the Cathedral Chapter took a firm decision to make the Cathedral as “green” as possible. This followed a discussion prompted by the Dean who had addressed the Cathedral Administrators’ Conference on the subject of “Greening up our Cathedrals”.



At a practical level, the Cathedral has recently renewed both its interior and exterior lighting and in the following the principles of protecting and safeguarding the environment has achieved a saving of 40% in the quantity of electricity used. The replacement of the Cathedral boilers in the Autumn in 2010 will also reduce the Cathedral’s gas consumption by 30%.

Our new Cathedral Architect, Oliver Caroe, has been appointed with the aim of taking our environmental agenda forward. He is one of the leading exponents of this agenda and lectures nationally on the subject. The Chapter continue to look at a range of initiatives from the carbon footprint of the congregation to the use of paper by the Cathedral office.



Climate Justice Fund

Climate change is an injustice – its worst effects are visited on those least able to cope and on those least responsible for causing them. By giving to the *Climate Justice Fund*, you’ll become part of the miracle of the global church working together. Any amount you can give will be much appreciated. The Climate Justice Fund, launched by the Church of England is managed by Tearfund. Your money will be used to support three Anglican churches in Tanzania, Uganda and the

Democratic Republic of the Congo, each working to alleviate the impact of climate change. Full details from www.climatejusticefund.org

Study Courses

A number of courses and study material is currently available for you to consider using in your parish. There will also be a diocesan course available in 2011. The **Christian Ecology Link website** is an excellent referral point for courses such as:

Love for the Future, The Diocese of Bath and Wells has produced this six part DVD course (copy in the Learning Resource Centre).

The Earth in our Hands, a Lent course by Churches Together in Lincolnshire

Omega Climate Course, produced by Christians in Sheffield

EcoCell, 6 modules for study from the Christian Ecology Link

Useful Contacts and Websites (more on the diocesan website)

Christian Ecology Link	www.christian-ecology.org.uk
Eco- Congregation	www.ecocongregation.org
Operation Noah	www.operationnoah.org
Church of England	www.shrinkingthefootprint.cofe.anglican.org
Carbon Trust	www.carbontrust.co.uk
Energy Watch	www.energywatch.org.uk
Churchyards	www.caringforgodsacre.org.uk
Fairtrade Foundation	www.fairtrade.org.uk
Christian Aid	www.christian-aid.org.uk
Other agencies	www.arocha.org.uk and www.tearfund.org

The Diocesan Learning Resources Centre at the Diocesan Office in Leeds has a number of books, DVDs, course material for lending to parishes.

Contact the secretary on 0113 2000 547.

Email Susan.Rusholme@riponleeds-diocese.org.uk

The Diocesan Environment Group is there to help parishes. Contact the Director of Mission Resourcing on 0113 2000 559

Email Adrian.Alker@riponleeds-diocese.org.uk

FINALLY - GETTING STARTED!

Many carbon reduction measures will already be in place in some parishes. However you may find the following 'starting checklist' useful:

- ✚ Measure your church's energy consumption by undertaking an audit
- ✚ Plan the most cost effective way of reducing your carbon emissions in *your* situation and introduce a system for monitoring your progress
- ✚ Install energy saving bulbs throughout church/other buildings
- ✚ Ensure the heating system is governed by a thermostat and time switch at sensible settings
- ✚ Introduce a car sharing scheme to get people to and from church
- ✚ Mark one Sunday as Environment Sunday
- ✚ Host a parish environment event, showing films such as *An Inconvenient Truth* or *The Age of Stupid*
- ✚ Plan a study course on the environment – a diocesan environment course will be available in 2011
- ✚ Sign up for the Eco-Congregation scheme
- ✚ Switch to recycled paper and stationery. Stop using disposable cups
- ✚ Increase your recycling efforts

A PRAYER

***Creator God, whose love was poured out in Jesus,
give us the strength and the vision to so care for
your world and its peoples, that we may be faithful
stewards of all your creation, working in the power
of your Holy Spirit***