

The Diocese of Norwich exists to proclaim the Gospel and nurture the Kingdom of Christ in Norfolk and Waveney. This policy, accordingly, is framed around the 'Five Marks of Mission'.

We acknowledge that God created and holds together all life, and that all life exists in an intimate mutually supporting relationship sustained by and reflective of God's love. The action of human beings is placing the whole community in peril. We wish to turn to Jesus for inspiration to be a medium for change. We understand the need to seek ways to translate our commitment into actions that demonstrate our love and care for the earth which in Christ accompanies us in our active hope in his approaching kingdom.

We see our objectives as being:

- To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom: to celebrate the gift of Creation and show its spiritual and practical value to all.
- To teach, baptise and nurture new believers: to promote environmental mindfulness as an intrinsic part of our approach to Christian life.
- To respond to human need by loving service: encouraging a way of living and ordering one's life in community, with care for the land and all its creatures in response to problems such as climate disruption, water scarcity, flooding and habitat destruction as they impact on the world.
- To seek to transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and to pursue peace and reconciliation: by seeking to value the 'free' nature of environmental resources and challenge the economic structures that take advantage of this at Creation's expense.
- To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth: by establishing the Diocese's own environmental impacts through the choices we make as human beings in our lives, as well as the use of our buildings and land and using this understanding to devise a strategy to improve their environmental performance.

The Diocese commits itself to:

- proclaim God's great love for the whole of Creation by incorporating wider environmental concerns into theological and liturgical life.
- measure the environmental impact of Diocesan buildings, land, travel, and other activities and devise a strategy to manage these issues.
- acknowledge the climate crisis and aim to achieve net zero carbon emissions by the end of 2030 in line with Church of England Net Zero Carbon Route Map.
- aim to achieve the Eco Diocese Silver Award by the end of 2026 and to support parish churches to become Eco Churches and schools to become Eco Schools, engaging with broader aspects of their environmental and ethical practice.
- strive for ecological transformation, protecting biodiversity, including seeking to manage parts of churchyards and other church owned land for nature, and allowing us to walk more gently on the earth.
- review this policy every three years.

*Approved by Diocesan Synod
23 March 2024*