**Parish Creation Care Policy**

For the church/churches of

……………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………..

We the Church Wardens, PCC & Clergy of

………………………………………………………………….., have passed a PCC resolution to adopt this Creation Care Policy. In so doing we are actively choosing to Cherish Creation, Cut Carbon, Speak Up and encourage our church community to set Creation Care as part of our way of life and one of our essential Christian responses.

We will:

* Establish Creation Care as a permanent PCC agenda item;
* Complete and return the annual Environmental Footprint Tool (EFT) as a part of our annual parish returns;
* Ensure that Creation Care is an integral part of our regular worship and hold a Creation Sunday service or Creation-tide service annually;
* Appoint, support and enable a Creation Care Champion or team of Creation Care Champions for each parish church and establish a regular channel of communication and reporting to the PCC;
* Register each parish church with A Rocha Eco Church;
* Carry out the initial environmental audit for each parish church via Eco Church.
* **Establish Creation Care as a permanent PCC agenda item.**

The purpose behind this is to clearly state that we, the Anglican Church in Cornwall, are totally committed to being leaders in Creation Care and that our mission and theology to Cherish Creation, Cut Carbon, Speak Up is held centrally within Anglican polity and our governance structures.

* **Complete and return the annual Environmental Footprint Tool (EFT) as a part of our annual parish returns.**

The Anglican Church is committed to cutting carbon and achieving Net Zero by 2030. The Diocese of Truro played an essential role in bringing this strategic plan of action to synod. As part of our corporate work towards cutting carbon we need to bench mark and then monitor our environmental footprint. This simple annual tool helps further the Net Zero work of the whole church.

* **Ensure that Creation Care is an integral part of our regular worship and teaching and hold a Creation Sunday service or Creation-tide service annually.**

As people of faith and goodwill, our shared call to Cherish Creation, Cut Carbon, Speak Up must start at a personal and local level, worked out in the families and communities in which we live, work, worship and rest. Regular worship and teaching that speaks to Creation Care, encourages the local community to take both personal and corporate action.

* **Appoint, support and enable a Creation Care Champion or team of Creation Care Champions for each parish church and establish a regular channel of communication and reporting to the PCC.**

Our diocesan environment strategy to Cherish Creation, Cut Carbon, Speak Up, needs people to help breathe it into life and action in every parish in Cornwall… and the two parishes in Devon. As a diocese, Truro is establishing a network of Creation Care Champions in order to offer support, training and a growing community that will enable our churches to respond to the realities of climate crisis with empathy, knowledge and confidence.

The principles outlined in the House of Bishop’s [Safer Recruitment and People Management](https://www.churchofengland.org/safeguarding/safeguarding-e-manual/safer-recruitment-and-people-management-guidance/section-2-role) (SRPM) guidance should be used. The role, as it has been written, does not require a DBS as it does not meet the eligibility criteria. If the PCC identifies that their Care Champion(s) will be working with children and/or vulnerable adults on a regular basis then they must follow the SRPM recruitment process and consider if a DBS and additional Safeguarding Training (e.g. Leadership) is required.

* **Register each parish church with A Rocha Eco Church.**

A Rocha Eco Church is the national standard for environmental accreditation for church communities. The awards of Bronze, Silver and Gold are very well resourced via the Eco Church website. As more parish churches register with Eco Church, the Diocese of Truro will be able to work towards the Eco Diocese award.

* **Carry out the initial environmental audit for each parish church via Eco Church.**

The initial Eco Church audit is a great way of starting your Creation Care journey. It’s a bit like an environmental health check. It covers five key areas:

* + Worship and teaching
  + Management of church buildings
  + Management of church land
  + Community and global engagement
  + Lifestyle

Thank you for choosing to Cherish Creation, Cut Carbon, Speak Up. When we do this together, it really does change the world in which we live for the better, for all creation.

The diocesan Creation Care Group, which reports to the diocesan Environment Board, will be creating a range of resources to help enable this essential work. Please do check the Creation Care pages of the diocesan website for regular updates.

(January 2022)