St James' Church, Hemingford Grey

Environmental Policy

Policy statement

We recognise the urgency of the climate and nature crises and the fundamental injustice these represent. We will take the practical steps necessary to strive toward safeguarding the integrity of creation and sustaining the life of the Earth.

Our principles and values

God created the world and everything in it.

God has created an awesome and majestic cosmos. We are but one part of His created order. Jesus has redeemed the whole earth through his death and resurrection. We have a special responsibility to care for the Earth so that human life and all God's creatures may be sustained inharmony.

Our church is committed to minimising our negative impact on the environment. As Christians it is our responsibility to care for creation, using resources wisely so that climate change is mitigated, biodiversity protected or enhanced, finite resources conserved, and waste and pollution minimised.

Seeking climate justice is part of Christian discipleship and practice.

Following Christ's teachings means loving our global neighbours and caring for creation. We will aim to make changes to improve our sustainability and to show solidarity with those across the world who are suffering in this crisis.

Our commitments

Worship and Teaching

We will communicate our biblical understanding of responsibility to God for all that is entrusted to us through creation, making the links between poverty, wealth and environmental degradation. We will include the importance of care for creation in our worship, teaching and mission, and our work with children and young people.

Buildings and Energy

We recognise the most important environmental impact will be an ongoing reduction of our carbon emissions. We will seek to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions as much as we can, working toward net zero carbon.

Land and Nature

We will respond to the nature crisis and loss of biodiversity through practical action, collaboration and campaigning.

Community and Global Engagement
We will highlight and raise awareness that the climate and nature crises affect the poorest so our responsibility is to them and the places they live, wherever they are in the world, to promote justice for people and nature.

Lifestyle
We recognise that we have an impact on the world through the choices available to us and our use of money and resources. We will seek to encourage our church community and beyond to live gently on the Earth, to take actions in their personal lives to complement and supplement these actions of the church.

	Signed	Date
Incumbent	[signature]	7. 10. 26
Churchwarden		

Our objectives
List specific actions you intend to take.

1) Replace the current church heating (gas furnace) with an air source heat pump system. (July 2026: Faculty order application agreed by DAC, awaiting local council planning permission, at which point London Registry should agree FO). Aim is to complete installation by end of 2026.

2) Followed by application for solar PV panel installation on nave roof (plus possible battery storage). Installation target: end of 2028

3) Engage with the Parish's environmental group and the wider community so as to demonstrate our love and care for God's creation. Work with them to raise awareness of our actions and seek to partner them in appropriate initiatives.

4) Through our teaching (adults and younger), take opportunities to reinforce the biblical view of our responsibility to care for God's creation.

5) We will endeavour to make environmentally positive choices in all aspects of our work, including: using eco-friendly products; reducing waste; improving energy efficiency; and encouraging environmental awareness among all users of the Parish Centre.