

St Mary-le-Bow Environmental Policy

General Clauses

1. We affirm the Fifth Mark of Mission ('to strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth') as a central part of our life, work and mission.
2. We will take environmental concerns fully into account in our mission, worship, study, education, training, pastoral, administrative and other programmes and projects. *In 2019 we commit ourselves to assist local agencies to reduce use of plastics locally. We are part of the Plastic Free City Pledge.*
3. We will identify environmental issues in our buildings as a whole, and devise appropriate action on them.
4. We will appoint *Alan Hovell* as our Environment Officer and encourage him to bring environmental concerns forward on a regular basis.
5. We will seek appropriate information from a Christian environmental group (eg. *EcoChurch*) and keep abreast of current thinking.
6. *8/3/18 we secured Bronze Certification from ECOCHURCH AWARDS and have a commitment in our MAP to progress to SILVER. (Refurbishment of the Lodging provides us with perhaps the best opportunity).*
7. We will endeavour to use sustainable timbers etc. when making architectural repairs and alterations to the church buildings. *In 2019 we were assured that stone from the tower would be recycled.*

In any future Lodging scheme, the architect will be expected to provide an environmental plan.

8. We will consider the environmental impact of all our policies and plans, and accept that additional costs may be incurred.

SMLB (through JS) provides support for the City of London Fairtrade Campaign

9. We will ask our congregation and visitors to consider their personal impact on the environment in their daily lives. Preaching about the environment should be normal and unexceptional.
10. We will support the work of local and national environmental organisations, as appropriate.
11. We will hold a formal debate or discussion on environmental issues and policy at least once every three years.

SMLB held a debate on fracking in 2013. JS has held debates on fossil fuels etc in succeeding years and given space to EcoChurch. It will debate plastics in 2020.

Transport:

12. We will encourage environmentally-friendly forms of transport, walk, cycle, use public transport, share cars, keep journeys to meeting venues short wherever possible, and keep fossil fuel emissions as low as we can.

Energy:

13. We will look for economies in heating, use thermostats, fit low-energy light bulbs, improve insulation, switch to 'green' energy suppliers, install solar panels, keep temperatures down, avoid stand-by mode and turn off computers and electrical appliances when not in use, and seek to save energy, wherever possible. *We are progressing towards the use of LED light bulbs throughout the building*

New boilers were approved as more efficient and green by the diocesan environmental officer.

14. We will continue to seek ways to reduce consumption, particularly of paper and envelopes, and the impact of our activities on the environment, use recycled paper, re-use and repair wood and other items, recycle waste and if necessary take it to collection points, reduce the negative social and environmental impacts of computers, use low-environmental impact cleaning materials (avoiding chlorine-based and phosphate-rich powders), avoid using disposable and plastic items, avoid artificial fertilisers and pesticides, and use wood from sustainable sources, wherever possible. *All this is happening in 2019 together with composting in the Lodging.*

Office staff attest to little waste.

Biodiversity:

15. We will assess the value of our land and property for wildlife, and manage them to conserve biodiversity, wherever possible.

The Cheapside Initiative conduct a green spaces survey and commended bird life on the lodging terrace.

Catering:

16. We (*by which we include the Café*) will seek to purchase food and drink that meets the LOAF principles (Locally-sourced, Organically-grown, Animal-friendly, Fairly-traded), avoid over-catering, and use seasonal foods. We will work towards a commitment from The Cafe Below to these principles in our regular meetings with the restaurant management and when the Licence is reviewed.

This policy to be reviewed with Café Below

Water:

17. We will avoid using water unnecessarily, install water meters where appropriate, check for leakages regularly, fit water-minimising systems to taps and cisterns, and collect rainwater, wherever possible. *Water tap placed in churchyard 2019.*

Investments

18. As part of the 2019 review, enquiries were made of the London Diocesan Fund as to the ethical status of investment funds of which it is Trustee for the benefit of the Parish. The following response was received:

Both the M&G Charifund accounts and the CCLA CBF Church of England accounts are invested in line with the LDF's ethical investment policy. Below is an extract taken from the LDF accounts that gives a summary of the ethical investment policy:

The LDF has an ethical investment policy which covers principally its non-property investments. The policy incorporates:

Negative screening: the LDF invests in common investment funds which exclude tobacco, arms and gambling.

Engagement: the LDF invests in common investment funds that follow the United Nations backed principles for responsible investment (UNPRI) and the UK's stewardship code.

CCLA have their ethical policy available on their website. M&G do not have their ethical investment policy accessible on their website however M&G do apply certain ethical screens to the Charifund including; total exclusion of arms, tobacco, pornography, and gambling. M&G are also signatories to the UN-backed principles for responsible investment (UNPRI) and the UK Stewardship Code.

15.11.06

Reviewed by the PCC – 16.01.14, 22.11.18 and 21.11.19