

## **An Environmental and Sustainability Policy for St Mary the Virgin, Twickenham**

St Mary the Virgin, Twickenham, aims to uphold the teachings of the Bible in safeguarding the integrity of creation and renewing the life of the earth in line with Christian beliefs. We will seek to reduce our carbon footprint in all activities and maintain exemplary standards of environmental performance, so as to ensure that our activities do not adversely affect the environment.

To enable us to achieve this aim, we have set the following objectives:

- to observe environmental law;
- to establish and maintain effective environmental management arrangements throughout the work of St Mary's Church;
- to define clearly environmental responsibilities for all church groups;
- to ensure that the risks to the sustainability of all of our activities and others associated are properly assessed and controlled;
- to ensure that competent advice is available to enable us to carry out our responsibilities;
- to maintain effective arrangements for monitoring our sustainability performance;
- to review sustainability arrangements regularly and to ensure their continued effectiveness and suitability; and
- to report at least annually on our performance and at all times seek to involve and engage others.

### **Environmental law**

- We will ensure that we have effective arrangements in place to ensure St Mary's complies with all relevant environmental legislation.

### **Environmental Management Systems**

- For future development

### **Assess and control risks**

- It is our intention to benchmark our practices and procedures with other parishes and to ensure that we meet standards set out in published guidance; and
- We will provide, where appropriate, advice and training to church groups.

### **Performance measurement**

- For future development

## **Auditing and reviewing**

St Mary's is committed to minimising the impact of its activities on the environment. The key points of its strategy to achieve this are:

- Minimise waste by evaluating activities and ensuring they are as efficient as possible;
- Actively promote recycling, internally and amongst its customers and suppliers;
- Source and promote the Fairtrade product range to minimise the environmental impact of both production and distribution; and
- Use an accredited program to offset the greenhouse gas emissions generated by our activities, such as 'green' energy.

## **Consultation**

- The Environment Group together with the PCC is the main forum for joint consultation between the church and congregation;
- We will consult regularly through the weekly newssheet;
- We will provide and maintain open channels of communication to enable interested parties to raise sustainability issues; and
- We welcome and encourage congregation support, involvement and participation in sustainability issues and value their contribution to sustainability at St Mary's.

Name.....

Signature.....

Date.....