



St Mary's, Watford



St Mary's Church Climate Change Declaration

There is a climate emergency!

As Christians, we acknowledge God as Creator and Sustainer of the Universe and recognise our responsibility as Stewards of his creation. 'The earth is the Lord's and everything in it.'

The rapid rise in global temperatures, with all its implications for life on Earth, is a consequence of humankind's failure to exercise responsible stewardship. We therefore acknowledge our part in bringing about the present Climate Emergency whose impacts are being felt mainly by those with least ability to withstand them.

Jesus commanded his followers to 'love your neighbour'. We therefore commit ourselves to taking action to reduce the magnitude of climate change and to mitigate its consequences, especially for the poor of the world.

While the Climate Emergency is real and immediate, we act in hope, refusing to despair even though the present trends are adverse. We reaffirm our trust in the love and mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ.

We will:

- Seek to increase understanding of the Climate Emergency amongst the members of St Mary's and to show how our faith leads us to take action on it
- Facilitate access to practical advice on the measures that individuals can take to reduce their carbon emissions and adapt to climate change
- Take up the challenge of the Routemap to net Zero Carbon, endorsed by the General Synod in July 2022, by preparing a programme of measures aimed at St Mary's achieving net zero by 2030. As part of this, we will seek successively higher levels of award under the EcoChurch award scheme.
- Work with, support and encourage individuals, groups and organisations who share our aims and are taking action on the Climate Emergency and creating a more climate resilient community
- Seek to influence local and national policies relevant to reducing consumption of fossil fuels and natural resources.