

Environmental Policy Statement

God made the world and all that is in it. The world reflects God and therefore is beautiful and to be valued. Furthermore, the whole creation shares in the renewal flowing from the Lord's Paschal Mystery, though it awaits it still awaits full liberation from corruption (cf. Rom 8:21) and the 'new heavens and the new earth' (Rev 21:1).

This is reflected in Pope Francis' encyclical *Laudato Si'*, calling for Christians to an 'ecological conversion, whereby the effects of their encounter with Jesus Christ become evident in their relationship with the world around them' (§ 217).

This implies a respect and care for all of humanity and all creatures and aspects of the environment. Our actions have implications for other people and for the world that has been entrusted to us. Our behaviour therefore needs to be tempered to minimise adverse effects, even when that implies a change in our lifestyles.

The Archdiocese of Southwark, including its departments and Parishes, is therefore committed to:

- respecting all relevant environmental legislation;
- a procurement policy which is ethically responsible and environmentally sustainable;
- an ethical investment policy including divestment from fossil fuels;
- reducing the carbon footprint of the Diocesan estate through reduction of waste, recycling and the use of green energy;
- avoiding unnecessary use of energy, water and materials, as far as is practicable;
- encouraging awareness of environmental challenges and how to address them;
- monitoring and improving environmental performance.