



ECO CHURCH RESOURCES POLICY

INTRODUCTION

St Andrew's Church, Stapleford, has been an Eco Church since October 2019. It is gradually adopting policies, practices and procedures that are consistent with and help to express our care for God's world.

The purpose of this policy is to help to ensure that our purchasing achieves that aim.

ENERGY

- We have calculated a carbon footprint of our church premises. We have reduced it where possible, and will continue to do so.
- We aim to 'offset' our carbon footprint for those things we cannot reduce.
- The electricity and gas supplied to our church premises is generated¹ from renewable resources and/or charged according to our supplier's 'green' tariff.
- We insulate our buildings as well as possible given their historic construction and listed status, using double glazing where possible.
- Our premises use energy efficient light bulbs.
- When not in use, all lights and heating are to be switched off to conserve energy.
- In the event of the need to undertake a building/refurbishment project, our church would insist that it adhere to BREEAM (or similar) standard to ensure best practice in sustainable building design, construction and operation.
- We encourage people to reduce their personal energy consumption.

FOOD & DRINK FOR CHURCH FUNCTIONS

This policy applies wherever the function is held.

We encourage people to:

- use Fairtrade, ethically sourced and animal friendly² products when it is affordable for them
- use locally sourced, in season and organic products when it is affordable for them and better for the environment than the alternatives
- Any meals provided by the church will include a vegetarian and/or vegan option.

¹ From 22.12.2020

² An example of an 'animal friendly' product is 'dolphin-friendly' tuna.

- The church will take steps to reduce food waste (eg: through composting all waste, minimising leftovers at church meals, partnering with a local food waste scheme).
- The church tries to purchase food with the minimum amount of packaging and to recycle this packaging where possible.

HYGIENCE & CLEANING PRODUCTS FOR THE CHURCH, JOHNSON HALL & VERGER'S COTTAGE

- Recycled toilet paper is provided on our church premises.
- The cleaning products used in our premises are environmentally-friendly³.
- We use refill schemes where possible and recycle all empty bottles and packaging from cleaning products.

WINE, WAFERS, CANDLES & PALM CROSSES

- Candles are purchased from Charles Farris. They are made of bees wax, not paraffin wax.
- The wine used is fairly traded and organic, currently supplied by Poterion.
- Wafers are manufactured by the nuns of a Carmelite monastery in Yorkshire. Our purchase helps to support the community and its work, and they pray for us.
- Palm crosses are purchased from www.africanpalms.co.uk. They are made in Tanzanian villages from naturally growing palms rather than cultivated ones and their sale helps to support village communities.

FLOWERS

- It is recognised that Oasis is non-biodegradable and will not be used⁴. Other methods of arranging flowers will be used.
- Longer lasting flowers will be obtained where possible (eg: chrysanthemums in the autumn, carnations when available etc) and the use of foliage will be encouraged to enhance the arrangements.
- Dried natural materials will also be used when appropriate.
- Donations of flowers/foilage from people's gardens may be requested at various times of the year eg: Christmas and Easter.
- It will also be encouraged where possible to purchase or obtain flowers that are grown closer to home.

STATIONERY

- We aim to reduce our paper consumption.
- Where we need to use paper it will be recycled paper, or, if that is not possible, it will be obtained from a sustainable FSC certified source.
- We aim to source pens, folders and other stationery from 'eco-friendly' sources where possible.

³ Existing stocks of some non-environmentally friendly cleaning products will be used up to avoid waste.

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- We work with local recycling companies such as 'Eagle Analysis' to recycle inkjet printer cartridges and computer hardware.

HOME CONSUMPTION

- Personal use and consumption of Fairtrade and/or ethically sourced goods is promoted by our church.
- Our church encourages members to use food at home that is LOAF (Locally grown, Organic, Animal-friendly, Fairtrade) where it is available and affordable for them.
- We encourage members to take steps to reduce food waste (eg: through composting all waste, minimising leftovers at church meals, partnering with a local food waste scheme).
- We encourage members to try and purchase food with the minimum amount of packaging and to recycle this packaging where possible.