



**Hucclecote Methodist Church**

# Hucclecote Methodist Church

## Environmental Policy

Produced by the Eco Church Working Group

September 2025

### **Purpose**

This Environmental Policy contains the environmental and sustainability commitments made by Hucclecote Methodist Church.

In response to the climate change emergency, the Methodist Church set the aspirational target to reach Net Zero by 2030. Hucclecote Methodist Church has recognised the climate and nature crises and the fundamental injustice these represent. We commit to reducing our carbon footprint year-on-year, in line with the Methodist Church's commitment to net zero by 2030.

### **Context**

As Christians we are called to conserve the Earth's complex and fragile ecology and to be good stewards of its resources. We recognise that human beings have a special responsibility to care for God's good Earth so that human life and all God's creatures may be sustained in harmony.

The Church is called to demonstrate God's love for the whole world. We understand that the climate crisis is becoming more urgent and that its greatest impact will be on the most vulnerable people in our world; that irreparable damage is being done to ecosystems all over the planet, resulting in severe loss of biodiversity and shrinking the Earth's capacity to provide food for all of its inhabitants; that humanity's inability to address this crisis has diminished the biosphere for future generations; and that action can no longer be delayed.

### **Our commitments**

Hucclecote Methodist Church is committed to significantly reducing the carbon footprint of our premises by:

- reducing our carbon footprint by 5% each year, from 2026 onwards by continuing to reducing energy waste (e.g., switching off unused lights); improving insulation; upgrading to more energy efficient lighting and appliances; etc.).
- conducting an energy survey to identify a more sustainable heating system for the church and to understand how we can make the church building more energy-efficient and suitable for use 7 days a week.
- exploring how we might off-set any remaining carbon footprint after 2030.

Care for the intricate web of life on our planet is a core value for our activities. It affects:

- the way we worship.
- what we purchase (from loo rolls to cleaning materials and other consumables).
- reducing our use of plastics (especially single-use plastic).
- reducing our waste and encouraging reuse and recycling wherever possible.
- how we live our individual lives.

Hucclecote Methodist Church achieved the Bronze Eco Church award in March 2021. We are committed and currently working towards the Silver award.

## **What this means in practice**

### **Buildings and Energy**

- 1.1 We will continue to obtain our gas and electricity on a green tariff from our current supplier.
- 1.2 We will continue to look for ways to reduce our energy consumption (including sharing our carbon footprint with the congregation and other users of the building).
- 1.3 The Property and Finance Committee will continue to make environmentally positive choices wherever possible when repairing, modifying or maintaining the premises.
- 1.4 We will arrange for an energy survey to identify how to improve the insulation of the church building.
- 1.5 We will explore the most effective alternative heating system to replace our ageing gas boiler.
- 1.6 We will use the results of this research to make suggestions about how to progress developing the church building into an energy-efficient multi-use space which can be effectively used throughout the week.
- 1.7 As part of considering our carbon footprint Church Council will decide where within our building we worship each winter (i.e. the majority of services between Remembrance Sunday and Easter)..

### **Land and Nature**

- 2.1 We will continue to use the Welcome Garden to:
  - to share skills and experience to develop and maintain a vegetable garden
  - use sustainable gardening practices (such as avoiding the use of slug pellets and weedkiller on the premises and practicing the 'no-dig' approach in our vegetable beds).
  - garden in a wildlife friendly way and encourage biodiversity (such as our pollinator-friendly flower beds in front of the church to show passers-by how we are trying to care for God's creation).
  - share the produce from the garden among the gardeners and church members
  - donate excess produce to our Friday Lunch Club, to St Oswald's Food hub and to Gloucester Windrush Meal Venture.
- 2.2 We will encourage Church members and those who use the building to bring in excess produce from their own gardens and allotments to be shared with church members and the food projects who receive produce from the Welcome Garden.
- 2.3 We will continue to use our Church Green:
  - as outdoor space for our young people and uniformed organisations to use for play and other outdoor activities.
  - for outdoor social and community events such as our annual Strawberry Fayre.
  - For occasional worship (such as a 'Songs of Praise' service with the Hucclecote Hub).
- 2.4 We will continue to maintain the designated space alongside the church building called A Place to Remember, to offer somewhere people can lay a pebble in memory of a loved one, or sit, reflect and pray.
- 2.5 We will continue to open A Place to Remember whenever the Church or the Welcome café are open.

### **Worship and Teaching**

- 3.1. We will continue to include opportunities for special celebrations of Creation (such as Harvest Festival and celebrating Creationtide each year).
- 3.2 We will continue to include preaching, prayers and songs about caring for God's Earth in our regular services.

- 3.3 We will continue to include prayers for creation in the Church Notices for every Sunday during Lent.
- 3.3 Our human responsibility of caring for the Earth will be included in teaching for children, young people and adults.
- 3.4 We will continue to use the Church Green and our perimeter fence to display tableaux and posters celebrating major Christian festivals such as Christmas, Easter and Pentecost.

### **Community and global engagement**

- 4.1 We will create opportunities for our local community to engage with environmental issues (such as holding events for Big Green Week and Fairtrade Fortnight).
- 4.2 We will be an example in our neighbourhood of how to make a meaningful response to the challenges posed by climate change and the need for a more sustainable lifestyle (by publicising such things as Roots Refills our local refill shop and local Repair Cafes in Churchdown and Longlevens) through our Eco Church Noticeboard, the Church Notices and the Church Website)..
- 4.3 We will continue to hold our regular Jumble and Bric-a-Brac Sales as a valuable way of encouraging the re-use of a wide range of items including clothes, books and household goods.
- 4.4 We will continue to hold our annual Garden Sale which includes donated plants and garden tools to encourage sharing and re-use.
- 4.5 We will continue to donate the gifts from our annual Harvest Festival and the contents of our weekly donations box to Gloucester Foodbank.
- 5.5 We will continue to support charities and campaigns which help to address the global impact of the climate crisis (such as Christian Aid, All We Can and Water Aid).

### **Lifestyle**

- 5.1 We will continue to model sustainable practices at church activities (such as using Fair Trade tea and coffee, environmentally-friendly cleaning products and encouraging recycling).
- 5.2 We will continue to encourage individual members of our congregation to examine their own lifestyle and take actions in their personal lives to complement and supplement the actions of the church community (such as reducing car use and flying, increasing walking and cycling, using ethically sourced food and reducing their household's carbon footprint).

### **Involvement**

We invite all members of the congregation and all users of the premises to support us in implementing this policy.

The Eco Church Working Group is:

Nick Butler

Ron and Elaine Keasley

Peter Shaw

Beth Sweet

We welcome feedback and constructive suggestions for actions to help achieve our objectives through the Church Stewards or [nick.butler@phonecoop.coop](mailto:nick.butler@phonecoop.coop).