

St Mary's Creation Care Group – Mission Statement

1. The Problem

We believe as followers of Jesus that it is:

- our privilege to use and enjoy creation
- our duty to care for it and ensure that our use is sustainable for the sake of future generations
- our responsibility to play our part as individuals, in our church, parish and town, and also as citizens of the world.

But St Mary's, along with much of the western church, has been slow to engage with the developing crises in climate warming, pollution and loss of biodiversity. Our apparent carelessness is disobedient to God, and impairs our witness to the world.

2. Objective

That St Mary's as an organization, and its members as individuals, show love, care and respect for God's creation as an essential part of Christian discipleship.

3. Activities

- Encourage teaching about God's creation and our role within it
- Develop good stewardship of St Mary's land, buildings and property
- Encourage St Mary's members to be good stewards within their own lives
- Provide practical advice and assistance
- Engage with the diocese, other churches and local secular groups as appropriate

4. Key Deliverables

- St Mary's Church environmental policy
- Suggestions for speakers, study materials etc for Sunday services, children's and youth activities and life groups
- Practical suggestions, tools and support to St Mary's members
- Ongoing audits of St Mary's environmental footprint, sustainability and incorporation of environmental issues within its life (using eg Eco Church survey, carbon footprint tools, etc)
- Tangible improvements to St Mary's land, buildings, and practices

5. Dependencies

Support of the Vicar and PCC

6. Key Stakeholders

Vicar, Wardens, PCC, activity leaders, church members

Agreed by PCC – May 2020