

The environmental policy of the Diocese of St Edmundsbury & Ipswich



By practising what we preach and by putting our own house in order, the Church and all people of faith can make our own contribution to ensuring the safe stewardship of our planet for the generations to come.

Dr Rowan Williams, Archbishop of Canterbury

A Diocesan Policy can only have meaning if it is translated into action. The Diocesan Synod gave its enthusiastic endorsement to our environment policy. I urge all our parishes, organisations and institutions to see how the policy can be turned into action. Let us take our care of God's creation seriously.

Bishop Nigel, Bishop of St Edmundsbury & Ipswich

Recently rain has not been coming in the due season. People have been struggling to harvest for feeding their families. In many parts of this diocese we have been experiencing droughts & in some places in fact streams of water have dried out.

Bishop Aaron, Bishop of Kagera, Tanzania

WHY IS THE CHURCH SPEAKING OUT?

There is no time to lose. Scientists across the globe agree that the effects of human activity are accelerating climate change dramatically. Global warming, melting ice caps, sea level rise, changing weather patterns, all affect food supply and access to drinking water. The inevitable result of the increasing competition for these scarce resources will be mass migrations and countless avoidable deaths.

As Christians we believe that God has called on us to protect the planet for future generations. To love our neighbour includes caring for those who are suffering disproportionately from the damage we are doing to God's creation.

The greatest challenge facing the human race is to repent of what we are doing wrong to the world. Without a change of hearts and minds, our life together on this planet will become intolerable and unsustainable. There is no where else to go!



Collecting water in Kagera

Each of us can make changes. Added together they will become significant. We can start with an environmental audit of our activities, and resolve to act differently. As responsible consumers let's make choices now about how we live; as individuals in communities, or as organisations and corporate bodies, and as nations in a global economy.

THE DIOCESAN STATEMENT

The Diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich acknowledges its responsibility for the future of the planet and commits itself “to strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the earth” (the Fifth Mark of Mission).

This Diocesan Synod will strive to ensure that the life of the Diocese reflects in all its actions the responsibility God has given us to care for, conserve and replenish God’s earth.

We commit to practical action which reduces demands upon the world’s natural resources.



Bishop Clive & Revd Mark Morgan at the Diocesan Synod

We encourage the whole church community to make concern for the environment an integral part of prayer, worship, life and mission.

We commit to work with partners in Suffolk and in the wider world to address this issue. We continue to work with the Suffolk Strategic Partnership’s priority of creating the Greenest County. We stand alongside our friends in our link Diocese of Kagera in Tanzania, acknowledging it is those who do least damage to the planet who suffer most from the effects of climate change.

Passed unanimously by St Edmundsbury and Ipswich Diocesan Synod February 2009

“Ecological questions are increasingly defined as issues of justice, both to those who now have no part in decision-making at the global level, yet bear the heaviest burdens as a consequence of the irresponsibility of wealthier nations, and to those who will succeed us on this planet – justice to our children and grandchildren.”

**Dr Rowan Williams,
Archbishop of Canterbury**

“The earth is the Lord’s and everything in it.”

Psalm 24 verse 1



Failing crops in Kagera



Solar panels on Lidgate church roof

We gratefully acknowledge the support of Suffolk County Council which sponsored this leaflet.

WHAT TO DO NEXT

Audit activities to consider how your carbon footprint can be reduced.

Assess all future action for impact on the environment.

Regular monitor progress.

Make care of God's planet part of worship, prayer, study and spiritual life together.

Set an example of simple living.

Speak to others about the environment.

RESOURCES

The Revd Mark Morgan, Diocesan Environment Adviser, gan60@btinternet.com 01473 601438

A network of voluntary Deanery Environmental Officers is being developed to support and encourage churches. Contact Mark if you want to know more.

Use the Eco-congregation church check-up and church centre check up. Free resource material from www.ecocongregation.org. Please consider making a donation to the charity which provides this resource.

The Church of England website offers guidance on reducing greenhouse gas production www.shrinkingthefootprint.cofe.anglican.org. By Autumn 2009 it will be possible to use this website to contribute to the Anglican Climate Adaptation Fund. This aids Anglican communities most affected by climate change to adapt

For more ideas for action and online resources speak to Mark Morgan or check out the diocesan website www.stedmundsbury.anglican.org.