

Coventry and Nuneaton Methodist Circuit Environmental Policy

The Coventry and Nuneaton Circuit Meeting recognises the climate emergency and acknowledges that we face an existential threat without precedent. Following the call from Synod, the Circuit Meeting calls on ministers, preachers and all church members to take action in response

1. Across the Circuit we want to see local churches:

- a. recognising that as Christians we have been given the responsibility to care for God's creation, so we cannot ignore what is happening.
- b. exploring the issues involved both globally and locally, in a constructive dialogue, in our congregations, calling on appropriate expertise where necessary.
- c. understanding that in affirming our call to "love our neighbours as ourselves" we see that the worst consequences of climate change are often faced by those least able to affect change, therefore we are called to act.
- d. making care for the environment part of worship and teaching
- e. reducing the impact of buildings, and their use, on the environment
- f. using any land around our buildings in ways which benefit the environment and the community
- g. engaging with local and global organisations in seeking a fairer, more environmentally friendly world
- h. encouraging lifestyles, both personally and as church members, which reflect these aims.

2. In order to achieve this vision the Circuit encourages every church to:

- a. appoint an Eco Champion from each church to work with others in the Circuit in monitoring and coordinate progress, encouraging each other and share helpful resources, via our 'Green Gathering'.
- b. register its commitment to become an Eco church with A Rocha.

3. In becoming an Eco Circuit we will:

- a. appoint a circuit Eco champion(s)
- b. hold a regular 'Green Gathering' to share ideas and celebrate achievements within the circuit.
- c. register our commitment to become an Eco Circuit with A Rocha.
- d. plan an eco-themed 'local arrangements' service on each quarterly plan, providing the materials to be used in each church
- e. ensure local preachers and worship leaders including those in training are directed towards materials that enable theological reflection on environmental issues.

- f. manage the Circuit manses, other buildings and land with consideration of the environment.
- g. manage investments ethically, commit to divesting as soon as possible from fossil fuels and seek to use the new fossil-free Epworth Fund.
- h. seek to work with other circuits and with other denominations and faith groups to encourage environmental action
- i. liaise with the Birmingham District

4. In practical terms the Circuit will:

- a. minimise carbon dioxide emissions by:-
 - i. encourage the use of public transport or car sharing to attend Circuit meetings, including in making decisions about the location of these meetings.
 - ii. seek to make use of conferencing facilities (like Skype, Teams and Zoom) for Circuit meetings of all kinds, where appropriate and feasible, remembering the particular needs of those who cannot use these facilities healthily.
 - iii. maximise the use of electronic communication in preference to paper, remembering those who cannot use electronic communication
- b. aim for the use of reusable or recyclable materials for catering and of environmentally friendly cleaning materials throughout the Circuit and its churches
- c. promote the use of **LOAF** foodstuffs at all circuit events. **LOAF** is an acronym for **L**ocally produced, **O**rganically grown, **A**nimal friendly, **F**airly traded.
- d. include as standard item on Circuit Meeting agendas a report on progress being made in the Circuit, including celebrating any awards
- e. review this policy annually