



## **Parish of Oxtotlán**

Growing together in Christ

# **Environmental Policy**

# Introduction

As Christians, we believe that the whole of creation is a gift from God given to all people for us to enjoy and to care for. However, we know that at times humanity's care of the environment has not honoured the gift that God has given us. We look forward expectantly to a time when Jesus returns and renews the whole of creation. As we wait for the coming Kingdom of God, we are called to honour the gift of creation we have been given and to work, where possible, towards its restoration.

In light of this, our PCC has developed an Environmental Policy which hopes to fulfil our responsibility for the stewardship of God's creation. The policy is intended to be wide ranging and to help guide our work as a parish family towards a more sustainable future. In many of the areas covered by this policy, we are seeking to return to patterns of behaviour which, prior to the late 20<sup>th</sup> century were second nature to most people. It is hoped that this will help us to reconnect with this spirit of sustainability which informed the life of our forebears.

# Environmental Policy

This policy includes several areas of focus, each broken down into particular aims and objectives. We will endeavour to:-

## Energy and Water

- Minimize energy consumption at St Saviour and St Andrew
- Use renewable energy and clean energy wherever possible
- Use water efficiently and wisely

## Waste

- Minimise the production of waste in our activities
- Provide and utilise reusable, locally sourced resources wherever practicable
- Recycle wherever possible, and to use any resulting savings for productive ends

## Materials and Resources

- Use recycled materials or sustainable sources wherever possible
- Support the sustainable production and consumption of locally sourced food

## Natural and Built Environment

- Conserve and enhance the natural and built environment
- make the best use of the land and spaces we occupy

## **Travel**

- Reduce dependence on motor vehicles by car sharing on parish activities, and encourage all other forms of car-free travel

## **Awareness and Commitment**

- Ensure that all members of the parish family are aware of this policy, and as many of us as possible play a part in its ongoing development and implementation
- Raise awareness of the environmental issues that affect us as a parish and to mitigate these wherever we can
- Share information about our activities in developing this policy to encourage other groups and individuals to join us in our efforts
- Make our policy visible to all who use our facilities
- Set targets for our performance and review our performance annually