

# The Halas Team Ministry

## Together in Christ

CRADLEY HALESOWEN HASBURY LAPAL ROMSLEY



## **AN ENVIRONMENTAL STRATEGY FOR THE CHURCHES OF THE HALAS TEAM**

*This policy is drawn up in line with the Worcester Diocesan Environmental Strategy*

### **Theology and Liturgy**

Rigorous theological reflection underpins all our life as a team of churches as we seek to live faithfully to our Christian calling. We are committed to giving due consideration to the growing resource of biblical and theological reflection focussing on or stemming from a concern for safeguarding the integrity of creation.

Ecological themes should feature in our private and public prayers frequently.

The keeping of Harvest and Rogationtide, Environment Sunday and Christian Aid Week and the lectionary provision for the Second Sunday before Lent, should all be considered as points in the year when a particular focus on environmental issues in our worship may be appropriate.

### **Communication and Education**

To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth is one of the five marks of mission. It should form part of our preaching and teaching ministry, including the preparation of candidates for confirmation.

The Halas Team seeks to promote consideration of the eco-schools agenda within its Church Schools and should see safeguarding the integrity of creation integral to the school values.

The Team Ministry promotes Christian commitment to the environment as part of its school and college engagement generally, as well as being ready to learn from and participate in school initiatives in this field.

### **Land**

We are committed to maintaining our land with respect for biodiversity.

We shall consider carefully the methods used for maintaining our grounds and their impact on soil, plant and animal life, and where maintenance is devolved, discuss these issues with those undertaking the work.

We shall give consideration to the use of land for meadow, orchard, bee keeping, vegetable gardening and community use wherever appropriate, and especially every time any change of use is under consideration.

### **Food**

The Churches of the Halas Team have a commitment to Fair-trade principles.

Methods of production, animal welfare and miles travelled are matters of Christian discipleship and ethics. They are factors in procuring goods for hospitality and catering by our churches and part of our promotion of a Christian lifestyle.

## **Energy**

The Halas Team is working towards a more environmental procurement of energy. We are committed to the full consideration of “green” energy supplies every time a contract comes up for renewal. At least one such quotation is required, and the adoption of a green supplier when appropriate and affordable as part of our core values is recognised as overriding our financial responsibility to take the most reasonable offer.

We shall consider the feasibility of renewable means of energy production on our own buildings and land.

We are committed to shrinking our energy consumption footprint through the installation of more efficient heating systems where possible, low energy lighting, eliminating unnecessary consumption, considering light pollution...

## **Design, construction and Development**

In all new building works, attention will be given to environmental impact, including through embedded energy.

The sustainability of all new building works, with particular reference to energy conservation, will be given careful consideration

Where appropriate, local design and manufacture may be given special consideration within the aspiration for environmental sustainability.

## **Waste and water**

We shall consider water harvesting and the use of grey water, both in land maintenance and in building projects for (for instance) toilets.

All our buildings make provision to sort waste for recycling in line with local provision.

We are committed to keeping waste to a minimum. This includes water conservation.

## **Transport**

The Halas Team promotes lift sharing wherever practical.

Cycling, walking and the use of public transport are considered where appropriate.

## **Finances**

Environmental responsibility is seen as standing alongside economic responsibility in the decision making processes of the Halas Team. It is therefore understood that our responsibility to administer our funds to best advantage needs to take into account the Anglican Churches’ core commitment to strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and renew the face of the earth, and this may take precedence in any particular decision.

In the distribution of our Outward Giving, we are committed to supporting work in line with this commitment.

## **Measuring our progress**

The Standing Committee of the Parochial Church Council will review our life in line with this policy on an annual basis.