



## Bristol West Deanery Motion - 10<sup>th</sup> March 2022

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*Rev Dr Andy Murray to move:*

*that this Synod recognises the need to take urgent and immediate action at a parish, diocese and national church level, in order to achieve the Church of England's NetZero Carbon targets by 2030. We affirm the national church and diocesan work currently underway regarding these targets. In addition, we commend the proposals outlined in the 'Bristol West Deanery NetZero Carbon (March 2022)' paper and we therefore call upon the Diocese of Bristol to formally consider the proposals and recommendations contained within the above paper with a view to identifying a programme of support targeted at parish level.*

## Bristol West Deanery – Net-Zero Carbon Proposal – March 2022

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In response to the National Church of England vision to become Net-Zero Carbon by 2030, we propose action-focussed practical steps that should be taken by the Diocese of Bristol to ensure we achieve this ambitious target at a parish level.

We commend the substantial piece of work that is being undertaken as part of the national church consultation and planning towards Net-Zero<sup>(1)(2)</sup>, and that of our own Diocese. These initiatives are missional in essence as they visibly demonstrate our commitment to creation care, to wider society. However, we are aware that these high-level consultations and proposals may not substantially help parishes to respond to the climate crisis in the short term.

We recognise the substantial challenges in achieving the Net-Zero Carbon target, not least because of the nature of our buildings and limited financial resources. We wish to express our collective vision for targeted prompt action facilitated by the Diocese of Bristol, to enable greater progress to be made at a parish level in the following three areas (where planning constraints permit):

### 1. Churches:

- *\*Use of 100% renewable energy suppliers. We see the immediate potential to form Deanery or Diocese energy buying partnerships that could meet local needs better than the current Parish Buying Scheme.*
- Increased draft proofing and insulation.
- Replacement of old lighting with LED.
- Solar Panels / Battery Storage. *For churches who have sufficient footfall and weekday usage to justify this investment.*
- Replacement of old and inefficient gas / oil boilers for more sustainable alternatives (*such as zone heating, air source heat pumps, or radiant heating*).
- Invest in carbon offset (where gas is the principle heating method for a building).
- *\*Tree planting initiatives in churchyards and glebe land (using existing free tree schemes).*
- *\*Every church to develop a future heating plan by 2023*

### 2. Vicarages:

- EV charge points in all vicarages to encourage uptake of electric vehicles
- Solar Panels / Battery storage.
- *\*Use of 100% renewable energy suppliers (including vacant properties).*
- Replace old lighting with LED.

- Draft proof buildings and instal double glazed windows.
- Cavity Wall insulation for all properties
- Roof Insulation upgrades.
- Replacement of old central heating systems for more sustainable alternatives.

### 3. Transportation:

- \*Develop tax efficient schemes to help clergy and anyone on the Diocesan payroll to purchase electric cars and electric bicycles.
- Installation of EV charge points in churches to encourage uptake of electric vehicles
- \*A commitment to increased utilisation of remote meeting platforms to eliminate unnecessary travel.
- \*A commitment to shared travel planning, especially for in person Diocese wide events.

*\*Denotes changes that are nil or low cost to the Diocese*

### How

We understand that different churches will view the environmental agenda differently, and that some will place a higher priority on this compared to others. Therefore, it is inevitable that some parish churches will lead our Diocese in making some of the changes listed above. We see the potential for these churches to be exemplars, who can share their experiences. In essence, grass roots partnerships to inspire and encourage others as they seek to engage with the Net-Zero Carbon agenda.

As a Deanery we are looking for a commitment from the Diocese of Bristol Diocesan Synod to facilitate the three areas of the vision described above, by:

1. Establishing a rolling programme of means tested grant funding, and low cost loan, schemes for parish churches.
2. Using its regional buying power to develop commercial partnerships and supply chain schemes.
3. Contributing proactively to the National Church work relating to achieving Net-zero Carbon by 2030.
4. Appointing a dedicated Diocesan Environmental Officer, with the capacity and entrepreneurial skills, whose sole focus is to deliver this vision at a Diocese and Parish level.
5. Nominating a member of Bishop's staff (or a senior member of Bishops Council) as Net Zero or Eco champion, who is responsible for overseeing the vision and ensuring quarterly progress/good news reports are publicised widely.

### Conclusion

This outline proposal is deliberately simple in form, but audacious in vision. We commend the work being undertaken at a National Church level. However, if we are serious about demonstrating our call to being good stewards of God's creation, and caring for those most impacted by climate change, then parishes on the ground, need the resources, support and buying power of the Diocese to enable well co-ordinated swift action.

This proposal has been drafted and signed by:

Jonno Ball (St Mary's Church, Stoke Bishop)

Rev Melanie Griffiths (St Peter's Church Lawrence Weston & St Andrew's Church Avonmouth)

David Maggs (Clewer Initiative, formerly Bath & Wells Diocese Environmental Officer)

Rev Dr Andy Murray (St Peter's Church Lawrence Weston & St Andrew's Church Avonmouth)

Keith Yeandel (Buildings Officer, Holy Trinity Church, Westbury on Trym)

*We are very grateful to Canon Simon Pugh-Jones (Chair of the Diocese of Bristol DAC) for his support and advice in relation to this proposal.*

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<sup>(1)</sup>[https://www.churchofenland.org/sites/default/files/2021-10/qs\\_misc\\_consultation\\_-\\_routemap\\_to\\_net\\_zero\\_2030.pdf](https://www.churchofenland.org/sites/default/files/2021-10/qs_misc_consultation_-_routemap_to_net_zero_2030.pdf)

<sup>(2)</sup> <https://www.churchofenland.org/about/environment-and-climate-change/net-zero-consultation>