

Example of a PCC Proposal for a “Green Journey”

We may feel we are a fairly small, resource-challenged church, and when we think about making changes related to climate change, we may feel uncertain and wonder what could we do as a church when we face such significant challenges in many other areas? Is there a way to help our church thrive in loving people, sharing the Good News, *and* caring well for the environment? I'd like to suggest that there are ways we that could help us flourish in all of these areas.

Lowering our carbon footprint as a church has been seen to offer financial savings overall, and the diocese is working hard to help churches become Carbon Net Zero. So, we are part of a group of similar churches on this journey and there are resources to help. Additionally, as people of faith, we know that there is more that matters than just financial savings. Developing life rhythms and ways of worshipping God that are sustainable and life-giving can promote a greater awareness of God's presence around us in our daily lives and can help us connect to others, especially young people, who are keenly concerned about this issue.

What I'd like to suggest is that we in _____ go on a bit of a discovery journey to see what steps we can take to help our church be part of something really significant, not only for our church and community, but also on a wider scale to show that caring for the environment is important to Christians. [Share about your own green journey briefly with something like: I have recently begun a green journey in our family, I have seen God deepen my awareness of Him and love for Him in truly meaningful and wonderful ways.] I believe there are many ways being creation-aware as a church can benefit our witness, create new outreach opportunities, foster greater growth as disciples, and deepen our worship. I am excited by this!

I know we all have many commitments and demands on our time, and I definitely know the challenges of limited financial and people resources. I don't claim to be anything like an expert, but I am convinced that God will bless our church and will draw people to Himself as we take steps to honour Him and His Creation as we seek to be faithful environmental stewards in our unique context.

So, I'd like to request just two things. One, that the PCC would agree that going on a Green Journey together and learning what it means to be faithful environmental stewards is a worthwhile goal. And two, that at least **two** members of the PCC would be willing to join me in creating a sub-committee to look into what this would mean. There are lots of resources on how to do this and more are on the way as the government and church look ahead to the autumn and the UN Conference on Climate Change in Glasgow. Now is a unique opportunity where we can be part of something really important and, in a typical God-way, I believe in doing so God will bless our community and our own members in the process. Remember, young people are increasingly concerned about the environment. As we want to draw in younger people, this could be one more point of connection with them.

At this point, I think we have about five minutes for any questions. Thank you for your questions. To summarize, if together you agree with these two things — 1). that becoming faithful environmental stewards is a worthwhile goal, and 2). that two of you are willing to

Commented [HL1]: This encourages more ownership so you are not seen as the main driver and someone is your helper.

join me in learning what that might look like — please let me know. Thank you for your time and letting me share. I pray the Lord will give you His guidance as we look to how to honour God in all areas in the future.