

# Hertford and Ware Deanery Environment Group

For Synod 20<sup>th</sup> March 2023



At its meeting in June 2022, the Diocesan Synod agreed an Environment Policy (available on the [diocesan website](#)) which includes the statement below:

*As a commitment to action, the Diocese of St Albans has registered with A Rocha to achieve the Bronze Eco Diocese award by the end of 2022 and to progress to Silver and Gold award levels. As part of this commitment, we will work to achieve the Church of England target of Net Zero carbon emissions across all Diocesan operations by 2030.*

Clearly this has implications for the work of our parishes. The policy makes this plain:

*The practical outworking of the aims and objectives above form a strategy for environmental actions which will align with the A Rocha Eco Diocese programme and the strategy set out in the Church of England Routemap to Net Zero Carbon, when published.*

*Each operational area of the Diocese is expected to produce its own strategic plan to meet the relevant aims and objectives outlined above, which are appropriate across their areas of operation. This will include, but not be limited to Parishes, Deaneries ...*

The policy notes further that:

*These plans will inform and interpret the Diocesan strategy, providing a means to deliver positive change through objectives which are Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic, and Timely (SMART).*

In the deanery, it is our contention that parishes will achieve more when they work in collaboration with others than in merely forging their own paths. It is therefore a key element of our deanery plan that good practice should be shared.

To this end, **we are inviting each deanery synod representative to bring a contribution to the synod on 20<sup>th</sup> March 2023 about the ways their own parishes are approaching these matters.** We would like each parish simply to give a 90-second inspirational verbal summary of their own parish's activity (and certainly no more than 2 minutes – there are 25 active churches in our deanery, so we can't give more space than this). Following the presentations, we will break for refreshments with the hope that representatives will be able to talk with others in more detail about anything useful they have heard.

We will collate all the information from the initial presentations and make it available as a shared resource on the deanery website. If synod representatives would rather bring their parish expert to make their presentation, that's fine – this is not a closed meeting.

Revd Mark Dunstan  
Facilitator, Deanery Environment Group