Eco Group Manifesto

During lockdown, the Eco Group discussed what the world would look like after the pandemic, and what we would like it to look like; we discussed how we could influence the world to improve and how we could help to create a greener, fairer ‘New Normal’. This is the ‘manifesto’ that we have drawn up as a result of this discussion: it is intended to be a statement of our beliefs about the issues of climate change and pollution, a tool for lobbying those in power – we will be sending a copy to local MP Paul Blomfield, for example – and a basis for discussion with other people and groups who are involved in making change happen.

‘This is what St Andrew’s Psalter Lane Church Eco Group, together with the many other groups that form part of our church life, would like to see happening in the future; these are what we consider to be the important issues facing the world as we come out of the pandemic. We believe these issues should be part of government policy and implemented at national and local level, and we believe in lobbying national government on these issues:

* We believe that we have been entrusted with the care of the Earth, which is God’s creation, and that we should live fairly and gently upon it as an expression of our Christian faith.
* We believe that everyone has the responsibility and ability to make small changes which can make a big difference.
* We believe that there should be affordable and effective public transport solutions as alternatives to personal car use.
* We believe that electric bicycles and tricycles should be more widely available, that there should be a coherent scheme for funding them, and that cycle paths for using them should be more common.
* We believe that for those people whose journey requires a car, those cars should be powered either by electricity or by renewable power such as hydrogen.
* We believe that renewable sources of energy must become the norm.
* We believe that more ‘green’ jobs should be available, for example making electric bicycles, building wind turbines, insulating houses, harvesting crops etc.
* We believe that school- and university-leavers should be able to enter this sort of job as the ‘traditional’ job market shrinks due to the pandemic.
* We believe that it is important to support local traders, suppliers and manufacturers.’