

## Newport Methodist Church Environmental Policy – Review April 2026

2025 - 2026	2026- 2027
<p><b>Worship and Teaching</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We have celebrated and explored the Bible’s teaching on Creation Care in several services.</li> <li>• We have included prayers for Creation Care during our monthly online prayer time and during prayers in services.</li> <li>• We have explored Creation Care through Messy Church activities.</li> <li>• Our small groups have participated in series with a Creation Care theme, including ‘Saying Yes to Life’ by Ruth Valerio, ‘A Christian Look at the Environment’ by the John Ray Institute and ‘Living Justly’ by the Methodist Church.</li> </ul> <p><b>Buildings and Energy</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The NMC carbon footprint for 2024 – 2025 was calculated and showed a reduction from the previous year. The results were publicised, and suggestions made for ways to reduce it further. In September we shall be calculating the church’s carbon footprint for 2025 – 2026.</li> <li>• A Net Zero Action Plan was adopted in February 2026.</li> <li>• We have researched energy providers who use sustainable energy sources, and on April 1<sup>st</sup> 2026, we switched to a new provider of our electricity. The contract agreed will result in lower energy bills and we will receive power from renewable supplies.</li> <li>• Putting signs next to switches to encourage users of the buildings to turn off lights is still pending.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Worship and Teaching</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We will have at least two services on a Creation Care theme during the year</li> <li>• We will aim to include prayers for Creation Care at every opportunity.</li> <li>• We will continue to explore Creation Care through Messy Church activities.</li> <li>• We will continue to promote resources and individual study on Creation Care.</li> </ul> <p><b>Buildings and Energy</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We will look for ways to save energy use and we will calculate the church’s carbon footprint for in September of each year.</li> <li>• The Net Zero Action Plan will be reviewed again in 2027.</li> <li>• We will review our reliance on gas for heating the church when the contract with the current gas supplier ends in 2027.</li> <li>• We will put signs next to switches to encourage users of the buildings to turn off lights when rooms are not in use.</li> </ul>

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- We have installed a light sensor switch in one of the WCs
- We have put a sign by the taps in the accessible toilet and in the Victoria Room kitchen to remind people to ensure they are turned off properly.
- We have encouraged separation of items for recycling on the church premises, including batteries, plastics to be taken to supermarkets and food waste. Clear labels have been made for all bins in rooms in use by the church and community.
- The Island Waste Education Officer has given a talk to the Ladies Fellowship.
- We have used recycled paper in the photocopier and have tried to reduce our use of paper, by using electronic documents rather than printing off paper copies, where practical.

## **Land and Nature.**

- We have reviewed our 2025 – 2026 management plan for the outdoor spaces of the church, which includes low-maintenance sustainable planting that is drought-resistant and attractive to pollinators.
- We have encouraged people to grow plants from seed at home and donate suitable cutting from their own gardens for planting out in the outdoor spaces alongside the church.
- The ground has been prepared to establish a herb garden in the space outside the kitchen/circuit office

- We will look into the possibility of installing light sensor switches in other places in the church buildings.
- We will put signs by all taps that need to be manually switched off.
- We will ensure that clear signage remains on all bins throughout the buildings to encourage separation of items that can be recycled.
- We will seek ways to draw attention to a wider audience the reasons why it is important to separate out our waste.
- We will continue to source recycled paper for the photocopier and continue to look for ways to reduce our use of paper.

## **Land and Nature.**

- We will carry out the next review our management plan for the outdoor spaces of the church in 2027 and encourage the congregation to contribute to the maintenance of the area
- In April 2026 people are growing plants from seed at home and are donating suitable cuttings from their own gardens. We will encourage people to participate in enhancing the outdoor spaces again in the Spring of 2027.
- Herbs will be planted in this bed as they are drought tolerant and insect friendly. They are also available to be used in church catering if required.

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- In January 2026 we carried out a New Year Plant hunt and added our results to a national database. There is to be a spring walk and a summer walk to enjoy the local countryside in 2026. The church's seasonal walks have been cited on the national Eco Church website as part of their 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations.
- We have publicised events and activities for Creation Care, for the 2025 Biosphere events, The Big Garden Bird Watch, the New Year Plant Hunt and the Big Butterfly Count.

## **Community and Global Engagement**

- We have supported and promoted the work of charities that raise awareness of the climate and nature crises affecting the poorest nations, including Christian Aid, Water Aid, All We Can (Methodist Aid Agency) and Tearfund. We supported the Rotary Shoebox Appeal to encourage families struggling in Eastern Europe.
- We have used Fairtrade products wherever possible.
- We have taken part in the Big Plastic Count in March 2026 and published a series to raise awareness of plastic pollution in the newsletter over 6 weeks.
- We have publicised organised beach cleans by the Planet Aware community action group around the Island's coast and encouraged people to join in to help make a difference.

- We will continue our seasonal walks, aiming for at least three walks per year. We'll record the bird song, plants and animals seen on the walks, and put them on national databases such as i-Record.
- We'll explore the possibility of extending an invitation to the local community to join us in these guided walks.
- We will publicise the events and activities for Creation Care, for the 2026 Biosphere events, The Big Garden Bird Watch, the New Year Plant Hunt and the Big Butterfly Count in 2027.

## **Community and Global Engagement**

- We will continue to support and promote the work of charities that raise awareness of the climate and nature crises affecting the poorest nations. We will continue to support the work of Christian Aid and other development agencies. We will continue to support the Rotary Shoebox Appeal.
- We will continue to promote the use of Fairtrade products.
- We will take part in the Big Plastic Count in March 2027 and continue to participate in campaigns that raise awareness of plastics harming the environment.
- We will continue publicise the dates of locally organised litter picks and beach cleans.
- We will be prepared to engage with our MP on Creation Care issues.

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<p><b>Lifestyle</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• With the help of display boards in church, we have encouraged each household to use a ‘carbon footprint tool’ to calculate use of energy and resources to help our understanding of our individual impact on the planet.</li><li>• We have freely shared produce grown in our gardens with the whole church family.</li><li>• We have promoted car sharing and travel by public transport where practical.</li><li>• We have shared our own ideas we have found to work, about reducing our use of energy and resources. People have made suggestions about shops they use that sell sustainable goods and promote the reuse of containers and minimal recyclable packaging, shared with the wider congregation in the newsletter.</li></ul>	<p><b>Lifestyle</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• We will draw attention to the carbon footprint tools that are available and encourage people to review their household use of energy and resources. The aim is to challenge people to find ways to live more lightly on the planet.</li><li>• We will continue to freely share produce grown in our gardens.</li><li>• We will continue to promote car sharing and travel by public transport.</li><li>• We will continue to talk to one another about our own ideas for reducing the use of energy and resources.</li></ul>