



**St John the Baptist Church, Grove  
OX12 7LQ**

**Environment Group Report 2025**

*In our Grove Parish Church Vision Prayer, we ask God to help us share His hope for our hurting world and His love for all creation.*

The environment in which we live is not only important to our own health and wellbeing but impacts around the globe. Climate change, pollution (such as microplastics) and biodiversity loss (forests cut down, animal species on the verge of extinction) are in the news all the time. The Diocese of Oxford states on its website under *Environmental Action* that “it’s not too late”. We can all play our part in caring for the environment. Our church has already undertaken “Greening” initiatives:

- The group produced an Environmental Action Plan
- Lighting is being replaced with LED downlights
- A dishwasher has been installed saving water heated by gas
- Reusable bottles are refilled for washing up liquid, hand disinfectant and hand soap thereby reducing single use plastics
- Dangerous trees have been felled and replaced with a wildlife hedge
- Areas of the grounds are left “wild” to encourage biodiversity
- A nature trail for prayer/wellbeing has been cut in the grass next to St Johns Rooms

The Church boiler has reached the end of its’ working life and urgently needs replacing. Ideally, this would not be a like-for-like (gas fired) replacement. Feasibility Studies and Audits were undertaken and Grants and Diocesan funding explored for: Electric boilers, Ground and Air Source Heat Pumps, Solar panels and batteries, and insulation of the Church roof. A short, medium and long-term Energy plan has been produced based on these options, but because of high costs and the risk of boiler breakdown a faculty for a replacement high efficiency gas boiler has been submitted.

As a church, we have taken up the challenge set by the Diocese of Oxford and the Church General Synod, to reach net zero carbon across our parish. We recognise the climate emergency and the necessity of a strong, visible Christian response to what is happening to our world. We recognise our role in helping to reach the wider church target: to be Net Zero across the whole of the Church of England by 2030, but with a realistic target for our own parish by 2035.

The group is continuing with net zero planning and further exploring insulation and solar/batteries. Another environment initiative being considered is a Pathway and Carpark water run off project. Please pray for guidance in this environmental planning and if you would like more information or to be involved speak to Chris.

Chris Franklin  
Environment Group