A logo of a family

Description automatically generated**Holy Rood Community: Holy Rood House and Juliet House**

**The Centre for Health and Pastoral Care**

**with the Centre for the Study of Theology and Health**

**Environmental Policy, October 2024**

This policy is a working document and will be reviewed at least annually. Regular review will provide an opportunity to check what progress we are making to become an environmentally responsible organisation.

**Objectives**

The objectives of the Centre for Health and Pastoral Care are to relieve those in need and in particular the sick and those in poor health and to advance public education but not exclusively, by:

1. Promoting the Christian ministry of healing and other therapies
2. Providing counselling, retreats and both educational and training courses
3. Undertaking research and publishing the useful results thereof and providing and promoting pastoral care for the benefit of the whole community.

**Statement of intent**

Caring for each other and caring for all creation are interwoven: we consider our beautiful garden, with its wildlife: sacred ground which supports the ‘ministry of healing’ that happens here. Yet ‘healing’ reaches beyond the individual to our communities, the wider world and all of creation. Healing happens in a context and it *is always a justice issue.* We are thereforecommitted to carrying out our activities in a manner which relates, in a responsible way, to the environment with respect for creation. We are especially mindful of the potential impact of environmental change on the millions of people around the world already living in poverty and the need for responsible stewardship.

The Holy Rood Community therefore recognises our responsibility to reduce our carbon and environmental footprints and commit to being an environmentally responsible charity. This can be a challenge, particularly as our large buildings were not designed with environmental ideals in mind, and our ambitions are tempered by financial constraints, but we want to do our best and we are learning all the time.

**Our commitment**

We commit to the following actions:

1. The Trustees of the Centre for Health and Pastoral Care, along with the Executive Director, take responsibility for enacting and reporting on our commitment to becoming an environmentally responsible organisation.

2. To ensure the Holy Rood Community has a clear idea of what we have already achieved and what still needs to be done, we will use A Rocha UK’s Eco Church survey <https://arocha.org.uk/what-we-do/eco-church/> to help us ‘go green’ in all areas of our community life.

3. The findings of the Eco Church Survey will inform the next version of this Environmental Policy, and lead to the production of an Environmental Action Plan for the charity.

4. We will liaise and cooperate with local churches, faith communities, charities and businesses on sustainability matters.

5. Progress on improvement of the charity’s environmental performance will be regularly considered at our community and trustee meetings.

6. The community and volunteer handbooks will refer to this policy and remind everyone that we all play a vital part in becoming an environmentally responsible organisation.

7. Induction procedures for new community members, volunteers and trustees will include information on the charity’s environmental practices.

8. The Holy Rood Community will observe existing environmental legislation as a minimum standard and seek to out-perform current legislative requirements where practical.

9. The charity will, as part of the planning, procurement and delivery of any new work commitments, projects or initiatives, consider the environmental impact of any work before it is undertaken.

10. The charity will examine its financial investments, including pensions, to consider their environmental impact and work towards reducing this.

11. The charity will review its properties, to establish their carbon footprint and wherever practicable take measures to address any areas of improvement that are needed to achieve low or zero carbon status.

12. The Holy Rood Community is committed to reviewing our purchasing of food and equipment to raise awareness of its environmental impact.

* We will source locally produced food wherever possible and continue to grow our own fruit and vegetables.
* We participate in the FoodShare scheme which minimises food waste from local supermarkets.
* We aim to use suppliers of cleaning products and shower gel from sustainable sources with labelling to enable guests to see that we are using refillable plastics.

**Review**

This environmental policy is a working document. It will be reviewed annually upon its adoption.

**Date adopted:** Annual General Meeting: October 7, 2024

Signed by \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Dr David McDonald, Chair of Trustees

Signed by \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Revd Sue Hammersley, Executive Director