

## **Chichester DBF Statement on Investment Policy**

In common with many Christians, the members of Chichester DBF are concerned about climate change. The recent Diocesan Synod reaffirmed that care for God's creation is foundational to the Christian gospel and central to the church's mission. Synod also engaged with the many complexities this contentious issue raises, which are often overlooked. We recognised that it is possible for people to hold different views on the best way to achieve the shared goal of freedom from fossil fuels. We remain committed to working towards a future which does not depend on fossil fuels. We acknowledge that achieving freedom from fossil fuels depends on the urgent need to develop alternative energy supplies and reduce the demand for energy. The Synod also debated the central role that large energy companies have to play in developing alternative energy supplies. We agreed by a significant majority to continue to invest in Shell and BP only while those companies have a clear strategy aligned with the Paris Agreement goal. In a separate motion, Synod endorsed a Diocesan Net Zero Carbon Action Plan as a positive direction of travel.

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