



# Bobbing Church – Climate Resilience Action Plan

**Location:** Bobbing, Sittingbourne, Kent, UK

## 1. Purpose

This plan sets out how Bobbing Church will prepare for and respond to climate-related risks affecting our building, activities, and community. It is based on guidance from the Church of England on becoming a climate-resilient church.

Climate change is expected to bring hotter, drier summers, warmer and wetter winters, and more frequent extreme weather events. This plan helps us respond responsibly and care for our building and community.

## 2. Role of the Church

Bobbing Church recognises its role as both a place of worship and a community resource. In times of extreme weather, the church may serve as:

- A potential safe space during storms or flooding depending on the safety of church wardens attending the church
- A cool space during heatwaves
- A warm and welcoming place during cold weather

## 3. Key Climate Risks

The main climate-related risks identified for our area are:

- Heavy rainfall and localised flooding
- Heatwaves
- Storms and high winds including lightening storms
- Periods of drought and water stress
- Cold weather, including snow and ice

## 4. Actions We Will Take

### 4.1 Building Maintenance

We will prioritise good maintenance of the church building by:

- Keeping gutters, drains, and roofs in good condition
- Acting on recommendations from inspections (e.g. Quinquennial reports)
- Addressing issues such as leaks, damp, or structural concerns promptly

### 4.2 Flooding Preparedness

- Monitor weather warnings and local alerts
- Move valuable or vulnerable items away from ground level when needed
- Maintain an accessible list of emergency contacts
- Seek guidance from the Environment Agency and local authority where appropriate

### 4.3 Heatwave Preparedness

- Ensure adequate ventilation within the building
- Provide drinking water at events
- Adapt activities during periods of high temperature

- Check on vulnerable members of the congregation
- Make the building available as a cool space where possible

## **4.4 Storm Preparedness**

- Inspect the building, roof, and surrounding trees regularly
- Secure outdoor furniture and equipment
- Cancel or adapt events where safety is a concern

## **4.5 Drought Preparedness**

- Use water responsibly within the building and churchyard
- Maintain outdoor areas in ways that are resilient to dry conditions

## **4.6 Cold Weather Preparedness**

- Ensure heating systems are functioning effectively
- Keep pathways safe in icy conditions (e.g. gritting if necessary)
- Check on vulnerable members of the congregation

# **5. Supporting the Community**

Bobbing Church will:

- Remain aware of individuals who may need additional support
- Offer the church building as a warm or cool space when appropriate
- Share relevant information with the congregation through notices and communications
- Support the local community where possible during extreme weather events

# **6. Working with Others**

We will:

- Follow guidance from Swale Borough Council
- Monitor information from the Met Office and Environment Agency
- Engage with local community groups and resilience initiatives where possible

- Seek advice from the Diocese, DAC, or relevant professionals when needed

## 7. Approach to Climate Resilience

In line with Church of England guidance, we will:

1. Maintain our building effectively
2. Identify and review climate-related risks
3. Implement simple and practical actions
4. Communicate with the church community
5. Review and update this plan regularly

## 8. Review

This plan will be reviewed annually and updated following any significant climate-related event or new guidance.

## 9. Safe Spaces Policy (Extreme Weather Response)

Bobbing Church recognises its role as a place of welcome, care, and support within the local community. In response to climate-related events, we will seek to provide a safe and accessible space where appropriate.

### Purpose

To offer a safe, supportive environment during periods of extreme weather, particularly for vulnerable individuals.

### When this applies

This policy may be activated during:

- Heatwaves
- Severe cold weather
- Storms or severe weather warnings

- Local emergencies where a safe indoor space is needed

## Provision

Where it is safe and practical to do so, Bobbing Church will:

- Open the church building as a **cool space during heatwaves**
- Provide a **warm space during cold weather**
- Offer seating, shelter, and access to drinking water
- Ensure the space is calm, welcoming, and inclusive

## Safeguarding and Safety

- All safeguarding policies and procedures will continue to apply
- At least one responsible adult will be present where possible
- Basic health and safety considerations will be followed
- The building will only be opened if it is safe to do so

## Support for Vulnerable People

We will:

- Be mindful of those who may be more affected by extreme weather
- Encourage members of the congregation to check on neighbours
- Share information about available support where appropriate

## Communication

Information about the availability of a safe space will be shared through:

- Church notices
- Email or messaging groups
- Word of mouth within the community

## **Working with Others**

Where appropriate, we will:

- Be aware of guidance from Swale Borough Council
- Signpost to local support services
- Work alongside community initiatives where possible

## **Limitations**

The provision of a safe space will depend on:

- Availability of volunteers
- Condition and safety of the building
- Capacity to supervise and support those attending