



Sustainability newsletter – December 2021

“The earth is the Lord’s and everything in it; the world, and all who live in it.” (Psalm 24:1)

1. Christmas

Welcome to our first sustainability newsletter. The intention is to provide tips for living in a more sustainable way as we play our part in Caring for God’s creation, one of the top priorities for the Church of England and the Oxford Diocese. Our first topic is Christmas!

As well as being a time of joy, Christmas can be a time of waste. Here are a few tips to lower the environmental impact of your celebrations this year.

You could:

- Consider experiences or charity gifts rather than ‘things’ – and if you are buying gifts, take a look in charity shops and on their online stores. Or buy gifts that go on giving over time, like a house plant
- Shop locally, particularly supporting local producers e.g. Craft Coop or From the Kiln in Maidenhead. As well as supporting local businesses, you’re likely to find unique gifts you won’t get anywhere else
- Consider buying a Christmas tree from BBOWT’s heathland management at Caversham Court open on the morning of Saturday 4 December 2021
<https://www.bbowt.org.uk/events/2021-12-04-green-christmas-tree-sale>



- Think about sending e-cards. If you prefer to give cards, buy from charities directly, try to find ones that use recycled paper and ideally get ones that are not wrapped in plastic. Recycle cards and envelopes.



- Make your own gifts and decorations. Whether you love baking, sewing or painting, why not get creative this season. (E.g. See BBOWT wreath kits) <https://www.bbowt.org.uk/christmaswreaths>
- Reuse wrapping paper or gift bags, use brown paper with decorative ribbons or learn furoshiki methods to wrap items in a scarf from a charity shop <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YftYfhJbgFQ>
- Avoid glitter
- Don’t massively over-cater. When planning your food shopping, reflect on how you would use up left-overs if you do over-estimate.
- See which ingredients you could swap for local or Fairtrade ones

- If you're using Christmas lights, put them on a timer for a few hours in the evening, not 24-7
- When you wash your Christmas jumpers, first put them in a wash bag which catches plastic microfibrres
- Plan to get outside and enjoy God's creation – maybe a walk after your Christmas Dinner!

We will be providing tips on a variety of topics over the coming months, so if you have any you'd like to share, please let us know by emailing them to jwilks@jwa-consultancy.co.uk.

We would also like to invite you to an **informative and fun Sustainability Open Morning** on **Saturday 15th January** from 10.00-12.15. If you're interested in knowing more about what we are planning to do as a church and how you can contribute, please put the date in your diary. More details will follow.

You could:

- Consider experiences or charity gifts rather than 'things' – and if you are buying gifts, take a look in charity shops and on their online stores . Or gifts that go on giving over time, like a house plant.

- Shop locally, particularly supporting local producers e.g. Craft Coop in Maidenhead. As well as supporting local businesses, you're likely to find unique gifts you won't get anywhere else.

- Think about using the Church XXX rather than sending cards or send e-cards. If you prefer to give cards, buy from charities directly, try to find ones that use recycled paper and ideally get ones that are not wrapped in plastic. Recycle cards and envelopes.

- Make your own gifts and decorations. Whether you love baking, sewing or painting, why not get creative this season. (E.g. See BBOWT [wreath kits](#))

- Reuse wrapping paper or gift bags, us brown paper with decorative ribbons or learn [furoshiki methods](#) to wrap items in a scarf from a charity shop

- Avoid glitter

- Don't massively over-cater. When planning your food shopping, reflect on how you would use up left-overs if you do over-estimate.

- See which ingredients you could swap for local or Fairtrade ones

- Avoid chocolate selection packs with their layers of wrappings and choose a Fairtrade chocolate bar instead

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- When you wash your Christmas jumpers, first put them in a wash bag which catches plastic microfibres

- Consider a [Christmas tree](#) from BBOWT's heathland management at Caversham Court on Saturday 4 December 2021

- Plan to get outside and enjoy God's creation – maybe a walk after your Christmas Dinner!



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