



DBC Eco Church Newsletter



December 2021

Welcome to our Christmas Newsletter.

Well here we are almost at the end of the year and rapidly moving towards Christmas.

Christmas is a period of excess, and also a time when many of us value convenience. It is no surprise then that plastic features heavily in the average festive household. Here are a few tips on how to go plastic-free, or reduce the amount of plastic used this Christmas.

Shop local and in-season for your grocery shopping – it may take more time than one trip to the supermarket but it is likely to be a far more enjoyable experience popping into the local farm shop and bakery to stock up on low-carbon, plastic free produce.

Avoid metallic wrapping paper and plastic ribbons – instead, choose eco-friendly gift boxes, recycled wrapping paper, or use brown paper (you can even decorate this yourself with a simple Christmas stamp). Try out the Japanese art of Furoshiki where they use fabric to wrap presents.

Change to reusable stainless steel or bamboo straws – not only will you be helping the environment, you'll save a lot of money over the years with reusable straws.

Choose a real Christmas tree – Plastic Christmas trees can be convenient, but we often end up throwing them out after a few years. When your current plastic tree reaches the end of its life, consider switching to a real Christmas tree which can be shredded after Christmas and turned into compost (most local councils now offer a collection service). To take things a step further, a living Christmas tree is a much better option. Buy a small potted tree and

after Christmas plant it in the garden and dig it up again for next year and so on.

Collect objects from the natural world for the rest of your decorations – sprigs of holly and other green foliage combined with pine cones and oranges, make for a festive and fragrant method of adornment. Oven dried orange slices are a natural way to fragrance your home at Christmas. You can also use cinnamon sticks.

Wrap left over food in reusable beeswax wraps – beeswax wraps are reusable, washable, and if you don't have a use for them anymore, compostable. They are easy to make at home too and can be refreshed.

Boycott plastic gifts – if you're not buying toys for children, consider an eco-friendly gift for your loved ones this Christmas.

Cook more dishes from scratch to avoid plastic food packaging – cooking from scratch allows you to purchase exactly what you need saving on resources, but also means that you can avoid unnecessary packaging.

Consider switching to eco-friendly makeup and beauty products – There is a growing market in the UK for eco-friendly beauty products, from fully recyclable packaging, to completely packaging free options, as well as growing number of vegan and cruelty free formulas. Lush offer a wide range of plastic and packaging-free products. Check out Its All About You on the main road in Dronfield for plastic free beauty products and support a local business.

The Climate Action Groups for Chesterfield and NE Derbyshire are running a survey. Please take a few minutes to take part at https://bit.ly/C_NEDclimate

Book Recommendation

SOS What you can do to reduce climate change by Seth Wynes. Available online or from the Oxfam Shop in Chesterfield. A simple down to earth look at what we as individuals can do to reduce our impact on climate change.

* * * *

Recycling Opportunities

Tablet blister packs. Please keep the blister packs your tablets come in and pass them on to me. There is a local collection point for these.

Babybel packaging. All packaging from Babybel cheese can be recycled including the net and the outer packaging that they come in. Again save all the packaging and pass to me.

Kinder Egg. The inner capsule can be recycled. Again please save and pass to me to go to the local collection point.

For further information or collection please contact me on 07835455940 or margaret.keen@talk21.com Many thanks.

* * * *

Printer Cartridge Recycling

For a considerable time now we have been collecting printer cartridges for recycling. These are sent by Anne Turk to the Medaille

Trust which is an organization that seeks to raise money for victims of modern slavery. Recycle4Charity will recycle old ink cartridges and give the proceeds to Medaille Trust. Please continue to bring along your empty printer cartridges and put them in the box in the porch.

* * * *

Thank you to everyone who purchased goods from the Fairtrade Stall – we sold almost £150 worth of goods. If you are in Sheffield and want to purchase more Fairtrade products please go to Good Taste – the Sheffield Fairtrade shop at 195 Whitham Road, Sheffield S10 2SN. They are open from 10.00am to 5.30pm. They also have an online shop. Postal delivery is £3.95, spend over £50 to get free postal delivery. Check out their website for more information. www.goodtaste.org.uk

DRONFIELD BAPTIST FREECYCLE

Remember if you have something that you no longer need advertise it here – it may be just the thing someone else is looking for. Lets avoid items going to landfill.

For further information about Dronfield Baptist Eco Church Group contact Margaret Keen – margaret.keen@talk21.com



**Happy
Christmas**