

# DBC Eco Church Newsletter

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June 2023

## Welcome to our Newsletter.

For more information about the Dronfield Baptist Eco Church Group contact – [margaret.keen@talk21.com](mailto:margaret.keen@talk21.com)

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I make no apology for continuing on the theme of rubbish and in particular plastic rubbish. It is one of the biggest problems within this country but more so across the world.

## Join Tearfund's Rubbish Campaign

Our world has an urgent rubbish problem, but Christians around the world are uniting to take action.

2 billion people – one in four of us – have no safe way to dispose of rubbish, so many are forced to live and work among piles of waste. This is making people sick, releasing toxic fumes, flooding communities and causing up to a million deaths each year. That's one person dying every 30 seconds.

And the rapid growth of single-use plastics has made this crisis worse. We're facing mountains of plastic pollution. But Jesus told his followers that even the smallest amount of faith can move mountains.

During 2023 and 2024, nearly 200 governments – including our own – are meeting to develop the first ever 'plastic treaty', an international agreement on plastic pollution. But it's not a done deal. We need everyone to add their voice to thousands from across the world who are coming together to demand an end to plastic pollution and its impacts on people living in poverty.

## Take action to beat this rubbish problem.

Go to [www.tearfund.org/action](http://www.tearfund.org/action) for more information.

In December 2022, at least 169 people were killed in Kinshasa in floods exacerbated by the mountains of plastic in the Congo River. There is no formal waste collection in the city, so people often throw their rubbish into the river, preventing it from draining. In December, the floodwaters, filled with plastic, reached people's roofs. Tearfund's local partners run a hub recycling plastic waste into paving slabs for roads and playgrounds, creating jobs for local people and helping to clean up the city.

In north-east Brazil, Coqueiral Baptist Church are responding to floods made worse by plastic pollution by providing meals, clothes, shelter and medical help to survivors, and training 'flood brigades' to rescue people trapped by the rising waters. The church is also campaigning for proper waste collection and becoming a 'zero-waste church'

(Taken from Tearfund's Rubbish Campaign material.)

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What can we do?

**Sign** Tearfund's petition at [www.tearfund.org/rubbish](http://www.tearfund.org/rubbish)

**Take on** Tearfund's Rubbish Challenge to reduce your single-use plastic and waste for a month (or longer if you can!). More details – [www.tearfund.org/rubbischallenge](http://www.tearfund.org/rubbischallenge)

**Pray about waste and the climate crisis.** Join Tearfund's prayer community, visit [www.tearfund.org/prayforrubbish](http://www.tearfund.org/prayforrubbish)

**Give** to Tearfund's network of partners and local churches addressing the rubbish problem. [www.tearfund.org/rubbishappeal](http://www.tearfund.org/rubbishappeal)

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# Eating Seasonally

## What Is Seasonal Food?

Eating seasonally means eating food that's naturally ripe and ready for harvest in your local area at the time, instead of imported foods from different climates around the world.

## What is the 'Hungry Gap'?

Despite the arrival of warmer weather, springtime is a very lean period for British fruit and veg. Known as the 'hungry gap', it is the time in between the end of winter crops and the harvest of new season's veg.

## What Veg is in Season Right Now?

Some seasonal fruit and veg are still in early spring. Keep an eye out for:

**Purple-sprouting broccoli:** at the end of it's season, but available throughout April/May

**Spring greens:** did you know these are actually a cabbage?

**Rhubarb:** field-grown rhubarb is harvested from April onwards

**Asparagus:** the asparagus season in the UK is short - make the most of it between late April and late June

**New potatoes:** such as Jersey Royals

**Cauliflowers:** the winter variety are available until May

**Radishes:** these fast growing roots are usually available from April, they're part of the mustard family

**Wild garlic:** if you're looking for foraging opportunities, head to your local woodlands for wild garlic

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We were please to welcome Angela Blair from Chesterfield Let's Recycle More on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> May. Angela explained where the packaging we currently collect (milk bottle tops, coffee packaging and 'dead' pens and felt tip pens go to. The milk bottle tops raise money for Yorkshire Cancer Research and the remainder of the items she collects goes to Terracycle and she is awarded points, which convert into cash which goes direct to her chosen charity which is a local animal welfare charity.

There was considerable discussion about recycling in general and how people find it confusing about what can and cannot be recycled.

It was decided that we would introduce two further recycling streams namely Crisp and Snack packaging and BabyBel packaging. By early June there will be two further bins in the porch labelled for these items.

The Crisp and Snack recycling includes all crisp packets (please ensure they are completely empty) plus the multi bag packaging – any brand. The Snack packaging includes any nut, popcorn and pretzel packets and multi packaging.

The BabyBel scheme will take all wrappers, wax, nets and label.

There will be posters attached to the bins which gives more details.

I hope in the near future to produce a list of further recycling streams that Angela takes but this would entail you collecting your own waste and taking it to Angela – contact details from me.

Angela also runs a Facebook page and often other people have suggestions for recycling – it's a very useful page if you are on Facebook. Just search for Chesterfield – Lets Recycle More (Terracycle).

***Don't forget to make use of DBC Freecycle. Let me know if you have anything to post on here.***