

DBC Eco Church Newsletter

March 2024

Welcome to our Newsletter.

For more information about the Dronfield Baptist Eco Church Group contact - margaret.keen@talk21.com

There is still time to register for the Big Plastic Count. Just either search The Big Plastic Count in your web browser or go to www.thebigplasticcount.com



In 2022, a quarter of a million people from households, schools, businesses and communities across the country made **The Big Plastic Count the biggest ever investigation into UK household plastic waste.** By counting your plastic waste for 1 week, you helped us to reveal a shocking truth: that the UK throws away 2 billion pieces of plastic every week, only 12% of which is recycled.

In 2024, governments will be negotiating a Global Plastics Treaty that could finally phase out plastic production for good. And so, we're doing The Big Plastic Count again - this time we'll be using the results to convince UK ministers to lead the way at these talks and

push for a really strong treaty.

It's a massive opportunity, but we have to act fast...and we need your help!

Do you love a Rose

Roses of course are a big favourite for Valentines Day which of course we recently celebrated but roses are under threat. A new report from Christian Aid shows how climate change is impacting rose growing in Britain and around the world.

Nearly 60% of all exported roses come from five countries in the global south, which face growing dangers from extreme weather, 3 in East Africa and 2 in South America.

Extreme temperatures and extended droughts, are expected to get both hotter and more frequent - something that could make rose growing highly challenging. Roses also need plenty of water. The report cites a study, which showed that droughts in the area between 2020 and 2022 were found to have been more than 100 times more likely and more severe because of climate change.

The English rose is under threat too. Climate change also poses a threat to roses grown at home. On average, rose plants in the UK now start to flower about a month earlier than would have been seen as recently as the mid 1980s, due to increased average temperatures across January to April.

Increased rainfall is also a problem because of fungal diseases such as rose black spot and powdery mildew, which thrive in warmer, wetter springs. Some varieties have already been withdrawn from sale because they lack resilience to pests and diseases, which are evolving with the changing climate conditions.

The report warns that without government action to cut emissions and provide financial support to rose growers and others having to adapt to the climate crisis, millions of livelihoods will be at risk.

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Save bees from deadly pesticides

Bees are essential for our survival. They pollinate much of what we eat and play a critical role in sustaining ecosystems around the world. But the last decade has been devastating for insect populations and bees have been hit hard – with populations shrinking by a third in the UK.

Bee-killing neonicotinoids have been banned across Europe since 2018, but the UK government approved these deadly chemicals for emergency use – posing a lethal threat to bee populations. Greenpeace are campaigning for a total ban on these pesticides.

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The most important thing we hardly every think about

We don't think about it here in the UK, because clean water is always available. On tap if you like. But if it wasn't things could get difficult. We would have to go out and find it, maybe from a supermarket or even a standpipe. But imagine having to go to a river, a spring or lake. This is what millions of people around the world have to do EVERY DAY.

Next time you go to your kitchen to fill your kettle with the stuff of life, don't do it on autopilot. Pause a while as the kettle fills and reflect on the people for whom this – or even a standpipe – would be a dream

More at www.wateraid.org

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If anyone was wondering who received money from your recycling efforts Angela Blair can confirm that Charlies Place, Pet Samaritans and Chesterfield Animal Rescue each received £500

PLASTIC WARRIORS Film: The greatest pollution crisis of our time



Tickets are £5.00 and can be booked at <https://oaks.churchsuite.com/events/i8ohz0cj>

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Dronfield Baptist Church Freecycle

Just send me an email – margaret.keen@talk21.com with details of what you would like me to include with a photo and any relevant sizes etc. and I will include it in the next Newsletter.