

DBC Eco Church Newsletter

April 2024

Welcome to our Newsletter.

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

During the 6 weeks up to Easter Margaret, Norman and I encouraged all of us to get outside and experience afresh this wonderful world in which we live. We thought about water, animals, flowers, trees, insects and birds and the sheer wonder of all that we see, hear and smell. The danger is that we can take all of these things for granted but there is another path open to us, which is to think of this world we live in as being like a garden.

All of us know the difference a garden makes to our lives. You may have grown up without one and it is only now that you realise the difference the garden makes to your life. You may have had to give your garden up because it is too much work for you now and you miss the pride and pleasure such work gave you. Or you may wonder when you will find the time to actually look after your garden because life is too busy now and you look forward to the time when you can give it the required time.

Well, your garden, or perhaps I should say God's Garden, his world, needs your time now.

In Church we are very fortunate to have a vibrant and active team who have helped us understand our place and responsibility for God's world for many years. The size of our team has ebbed and flowed like the tide, and we would love you to consider joining us and helping the team grow stronger. We meet every other month where we discuss and plan how we can encourage us as a church to love and engage with God's wonderful world as much as we can. We enjoy outings to nature and bird reserves as well as putting on events here that the wonders of God's creation may be as accessible as possible.

Please think and pray about this and if you're asked whether you would like to join in, look on it as the opportunity to put on your wellies and gloves once again and learn to enjoy God's Garden even more.

Andy

Big Plastic Count

Did you join in with the Big Plastic Count. If so I hope you have submitted your results. When you submit your results you will get a footprint of your plastic usage. We did the count and I thought it would be of interest to people to see what our results were.

In one week we used 50 bits of plastic.

Over a year that's the equivalent to 2,600 pieces of plastic.

If all households were the same as ours, the UK would use 73,060,000,000 bits of plastic every year.

94% of our plastic was from food and drink.

4% was from cleaning and toiletries

2% from everything else.

32% was hard plastic.

68% was soft plastic

What Happens to our plastic packaging waste:

15% is recycled in the UK

12% is exported with Turkey being the main destination

12% goes to landfill

61% is incinerated releasing carbon, toxins and pollutants into the air, presenting numerous health risks for local communities and contributing to climate change.

Following these results we were asked to write to our MP, Lee Rowley, which I did. Below is his reply:

"I am grateful for you highlighting the work of the Big Plastic Count. The count undertakes really useful work in trying to draw attention to this

matter. The issue with plastic is that it is just so helpful in our daily lives; it is embedded into many of our processes which support us eating, living and getting around – and it does that because it is so flexible, so hygienic and so adaptable.

I don't think it is likely that we can, or should, reduce plastic usage given just how useful it is. From the most basic of activities (like what medicines come in) to ensuring our food doesn't go off, plastic has a range of uses. We need to, therefore, focus on how to recycle plastic so it can be repeatedly used. This at the moment, I agree, is a challenge. It is less of a challenge that thirty or forty years ago and there is certainly some recycling happening but we need more of it. With all of these processes, some time is often needed for the technology to come forward – much has been done already but there is much more to be done. The question that should be being asked, though, is how we avoid unintentionally creating a net outcome which is no better or, perhaps, even worse than the problem that was attempted to be solved. I think some of the bags for life, for example, need to be used 25 - 50 times in order to cover the increased carbon intensity in their production over single use plastic bags; so, effectively, people only have to forget their bags for life once or twice a year when going to the supermarket and they may inadvertently already end up using more carbon resources than less (even if the physical amount of plastic is, happily, less). All of this, to me, suggests that we need to move to a 'true cost' end-to-end assessment of all of these kind of things so we know that, when we change what we do, that we are actually making a positive impact.

There is lots of work underway on this at the moment but I think it will take longer. I know that the Government is committed to making further progress here and supporting those who are looking for ways to increase plastic recycling, and reduce its impact on the environment. I hope we will see further progress in the years ahead.

I hope that this is helpful and thank you again for getting in touch.

Many thanks,

Lee

I am concerned that the government seem to think that more recycling will solve the problem, which of course it won't. We need to reduce the amount of plastic that is produced and used and also improve on recycling for necessary plastic which for certain items is essential.

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Boots Recycling Services

Update for anyone who uses Boots recycling facility.

Recycle at Boots is moving from a WebApp to a Mobile App. The new app will make banking and depositing your hard-to-recycle items even easier, allowing quicker access through the app icon on your phone, improving performance if you happen to be offline, provide better accessibility and error reporting. If you download and make your first app deposit before 30th April you can earn an additional 50 advantage points. Download the app from either the App Store or Google Play.

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New reuse shop launched at recycling centre in Derbyshire Town – offering pre-loved items at bargain prices.

A new reuse shop has opened at DCC's household waste recycling centre in Bolsover. From furniture and homeware to garden equipment, books, CD's and vinyl, there's a host of pre-loved items ready for a new home. The centre is on Buttermilk Lane in Bolsover. The shop is stocked with items collected at eight of the county council's nine recycling centres.

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Sewage!

Today (27.3.24), the Environment Agency have released their annual sewage data telling us that there were 464,056 sewage spills in England last year, that's **162,965 more** than the year before. Scotland (with only 4% of its overflows actually monitored) reported 15,289 spills, and Wales, 108,860.

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.