Pew Sheet Eco Notes

*Please squeeze one of these paras in every fortnight*

**Intro**

Thank you to [names] for being willing to be part of the [St John’s] Eco Group. Whilst we will be looking at ways to minimise the environmental footprint of our church, we’d also like to share some thoughts every fortnight on how we can care for creation whilst we’re not at [St John’s].

**What is your personal carbon footprint?**

The St John’s carbon footprint, based on our energy use in 2024, was around [x] tonnes. Might you be willing to have a go at finding your own personal footprint in 5 minutes by answering questions on a website created by the Worldwide Fund for Nature: <https://footprint.wwf.org.uk/>? The vicar’s personal footprint was 9 tonnes, split relatively equally between the categories of: home, travel, food and ‘stuff’.

**Switching energy provider**

In March we switched St John’s electricity provider to the fully renewably sourced Octopus Energy. If you’re not already using green energy at home, why not look at sites such as <https://www.uswitch.com/gas-electricity/green-energy/> to see whether you can save money and the environment by switching to a green tariff?

**Enjoying nature**

As your town/city has expanded over the years, we’ve seen a reduction in land that supports native wildlife making our gardens and other open spaces valuable oases. Could you consider providing a water source for wildlife or buying a ‘bug hotel’ (available online for less than £10)? Could you avoid cutting some or all of your lawn during May (see <https://www.plantlife.org.uk/campaigns/nomowmay/>) as some long grass and wildflowers benefits wildlife, tackles pollution and can even lock away carbon below ground?

**The food we eat**

St John’s has endeavoured to be a Fairtrade church over the years supporting farmers in developing countries receive a faire price for their produce. What other decisions can we make that reduces the environmental impact of the food we eat? Might you consider choosing products that are ‘in season’ and/or produced locally rather than being air-freighted across the globe or picking palm oil containing items certified by the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO)?

**Consumer choice**

Do you have toys, lamps, clothing, small items of furniture, small kitchen appliances, garden equipment, ornaments, bicycles, CD players, etc. that have stopped working and you’re thinking of binning? An alternative to consider is the Repair Café at <https://www.newdaychurch.uk/serving-our-community/repair-cafe-lostock-hall-south-ribble-new-day-church> held on the first Saturday of every month from 10:00 to 12:30.

**Consumer choice 2**

Every time we shop we're voting with our wallet. When we buy from brands that have a positive impact it’s like voting for a better world. By carefully choosing what we buy, and looking behind the brands, we can choose products that have a positive impact on people, the planet and animals. How about visiting <https://www.ethicalconsumer.org/> to explore the ethical ratings of over 40,000 products and brands?

**Waste not, want not**

Around a third of the food we produce is wasted, often ending up in landfill. Research by the website <https://www.lovefoodhatewaste.com/> shows that if all apples, bananas and potatoes were sold loose instead of in bags sold by weight, we could save 60,000 tonnes of food each year, not to mention the reduction in single use plastic. Is buying ‘loose’ something you could consider and/or composting any unwanted fruit/veg (lidded compost bins can be bought for about £35) for use in your garden?