

A Greener Christmas

St James Eco Church would like to suggest a few ideas for you to make your Christmas slightly more eco-friendly, without losing the true spirit and meaning of Christmas—celebrating God bringing Jesus Christ into the World.

Before you go out and buy or gather anything—use what you have at home.

Decorating Ideas

Wreaths

Make a homemade wreath from natural materials from your garden or foraged—pine cones, herbs,



Wrapping

Often Christmas paper contains plastic—consider buying recycled wrap, use brown / craft paper, buy paper that can be recycled—no plastic.

Consider using paper tape! Yes it exists....

Ever thought of using a reusable fabric wrap?

Reuse bags you received last year

Bunting / Garlands

Instead of plastic filled tinsel garlands why not have a go at making your own garlands from recycled paper, or fabric or edibles (gingerbread garlands)

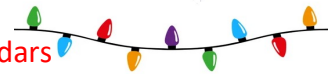
Advent Calendars

Consider making or buying a re-usable advent calendar—filling it with homemade goodies, plastic free treats or fill with Fairtrade chocolate.

If your family likes a Chocolate Advent Calendar—make it a one made with Fair Trade ingredients such as Real Advent Calendar (Meaningful Chocolate Company) or Divine Chocolate Advent Calendar (both Fair Trade and Vegetarian).

A Reverse Advent Calendar.

Find a bag or box and each day of advent add an item that at the end of advent can be donated to the Woodley Foodbank. (See woodleyfoodbank.org for the most recent list of welcomed items).



Lights

If your fairy lights fail consider replacing them with LED lights which initially may be more expensive but they consume less power and can last longer than “traditional” fairy lights. Outdoor Lights—consider using solar powered lights

Switch off—don’t run lights when you are not at home.

Natural Decorations

Consider decorating with natural materials from your garden or foraged (with permission) such as evergreen branches, holly, mistletoe, pine cones, ivy, cinnamon sticks, cloves, oranges etc. Which often bringing fabulous smells into your house

(After use these items can be composted or put in your garden waste bin)

Trees

Buy a potted Christmas Tree (making sure it’s FDC certified) grow it on in your garden in a pot or direct in the ground—lifting each year. (Remember it will need looking after all year around!)

Reuse your artificial tree for as long as you can. If you are looking for a preloved artificial tree look on Freegle, Freecycle, Ebay, Gumtree, etc.

Natural Tree consider one that is FSC (Forest Stewardship Council) or Soil Association approved. Choose one from a local supplier. Remember once you have finished with your tree and stored all your decorations for next year put your tree out for recycling (only available in Wokingham if you subscribe to the Brown Bin) or take to the tip / recycling centre where the trees are shredded and turned into plant mulch or compost.



Make a tree from an old pallet, driftwood, paper, knitted, crochet, etc

Decorate an existing tree in your house—Yucca, Palm Tree.....

Remember little changes go a long way!