



NOVEMBER

Have yourself a Greener Christmas. How can you make sure your Christmas is both a celebration of Christ's coming and better for God's creation.

The ideas below could make a world of difference, and a difference to the world.

Eco Church's 12 Tips of Christmas.

Take time to pray, reflect, and consider acting on one or two, or however many you like! You may find the change is for life and not just for Christmas.

1. Advent calendars. Support overseas farmers by ensuring that your advent calendar, and any Christmas chocolate, is Fairtrade.

2. Christmas Tree. Wanting a real tree - buy a plantable one or rent a tree (check online). Alternatively, if you already have a fake tree keep using it year after year.

3. Make a natural wreath and decorations. Holly sprigs, ivy



trails, pinecones, rose hips... take a bag, go for a walk, and see what you can find! Don't take too much and do leave some berries for the birds. Then get creative and make a beautiful wreath and Christmas decorations from natural materials.

4. Buy recyclable cards and wrapping or make your own cards. Recycled brown paper has a much lower ecological

footprint than Christmas wrapping paper.

5. Homemade gifts. Bake some Funfetti biscuits (BBC Good Food) made from a basic biscuit mix and add 100's & 1000's. Go to a charity shop - you could buy an attractive glass or vase and fill it with chocolates or flowers. Kilner jars, and other glass jars, filled with small items also make attractive gifts.



6. Buy beauty gifts that do not contain Palm Oil. Palm oil production causes mass deforestation, air pollution and human rights abuses. Read labels carefully. Avoid products with unsustainable palm oil.



7. Give the gift of time. Too many unwanted gifts end up in landfill. Maybe you gift your time instead. How about a gift of cooking for someone once a month for a year, taking them for a coffee, babysitting, house cleaning... or whatever. Make a 'gift of time gift voucher' and put it in a card for them.

8. Dim the lights but not the joy! LED Christmas lights help to save energy and money. Use eco-friendly candles made from beeswax, soy or other vegetable alternatives.



9. Remember the reason for the season. Practising generosity and hospitality is a great way to show Christ's love at Christmas. Invite someone who'd otherwise be on their own, to join you on Christmas Day or Boxing Day. It's also a way of reducing energy consumption as they'll share your heating and cooking.

10. Try a meat-free Christmas meal. A high-meat diet causes environmental problems, be it overgrazing of land, pollution, or the intensive use of water or fossil fuels. Would they consider a meat-free Christmas? Would they be willing to try a tasty new vegetarian recipe? If you do eat meat, buy free-range or organic.

11. Buy right - Recycle right. More waste ends up in landfill over Christmas than during the rest of the year. *Don't forget – most wrapping paper is not recyclable. You can test it by doing the 'scrunch' test. If it springs back, it isn't recyclable. And always remove the Sellotape before recycling.* Buy recycled wrapping paper & Christmas Cards.



NO GLITTER OR FOIL they are not recyclable.

12. Carry on caring for God's earth throughout the year.

Choose a change to make this Christmas. Be gentle on yourself and be realistic but challenge yourself too. Nature needs us more than ever.

**DO YOUR BEST THIS CHRISTMAS TO SAVE OUR PLANET – ASK YOUR
FAMILY & FRIENDS TO DO THE SAME – GOD’S WORLD IS OUR
WORLD**