

THE BENEFICE OF WITNEY



St Mary
the Virgin

St John
Baptist Curbridge

St John
Evangelist Hailey

Holy Trinity
Woodgreen

St Kenelm
Minster Lovell

Called to be a community of mercy and kindness

Suggestions for Protecting the Environment and Reducing Your Carbon Footprint

1. Cut power usage by turning down temperatures on water, heating, washing machines and dishwashers. Cope with lower levels by using more insulation, double-glazing and by dressing in extra layers of clothing.
2. Using an electric blanket will use less power than heating a whole bedroom; a slow cooker less than an oven. Careful planning with an oven, to cook as much as possible, whilst it is hot.
3. Cut harmful particles in smoke by reducing or stopping the use of coal fires or boilers, old wood-burning stoves, bonfires etc.
4. Use LED low-energy bulbs.
5. Promote the lives of wild creatures by providing fresh water and food. Large plant-saucers for water are ideal for hedgehogs and blackbirds. Don't use detergents to wash containers, as any trace left can be poisonous, but keep clear of green slime.
6. Provide useful wildlife habitats by planting trees, bushes, hedges and seed-bearing flowers, or create ponds, wild-flower areas or log piles. Make sure that high-sided ponds and water containers have a piece of wood to make a ramp out.
7. Provide bird, bat or hedgehog boxes, or suitable structures for insects and bees; make a bug hotel.
8. Check compost heaps before forking over and bonfires before lighting, because hedgehogs use them as homes.
9. Create wildlife corridors by making CD-sized holes under fences to allow hedgehogs access to a wider area.
10. Leave parts of a garden with dead flowers in Autumn, to provide seed-heads for birds and hibernation nooks for insects.
11. Avoid the use of harmful chemicals such as slug-pellets (now illegal), pesticides and herbicides. Any lawn chemicals that are unsafe for pets, will also be unsafe for any wildlife eating ants and worms on your lawn.
12. Avoid the use of peat-based commercial composts; such usage is due to become illegal.
13. Use compost heaps or bins for waste vegetation and a food-waste bin for other food.
14. Sort and recycle as much of your rubbish as possible. Batteries are hazardous waste in household rubbish as they can cause fires.
15. Stop or reduce the use of single-use plastic items such as bags, cups, water-bottles etc.

16. Buy loose fruit and vegetables or cardboard-based rather than plastic packs.
17. Use refills of products and shops such as WASTE O where you take your own containers.
18. Use more eco-friendly products such as bars of soap rather than gels or sprays in plastic containers.
19. Buy a few longer-lasting clothes rather than lots of cheap wear-and-throw items.
20. Use second-hand or charity shops and give good items to be reused, rather than thrown away.
21. Buy food from sources closest to home, rather than from distant countries.
22. Eat more food in season to encourage home-grown produce.
23. Use food from WITNEY FRIDGE that would otherwise be thrown away.
24. Cut food wastage by avoiding BOGOF types of offers (buy one, get one free).
25. Avoid plastic cling-wrap, single-use baking-tray liners. Use waxed wrap, or products made from bamboo, seaweed or long-lasting material.
26. Avoid leaving taps running by using a toothmug or glass, bowls or basins for washing vegetables, hands etc .
27. Collect water in a butt for outside use.
28. Never flush wet-wipes; even flushable ones remain intact for long enough to cause pollution.
29. Avoid unnecessary air or car travel by walking, cycling or using public transport. Even electric cars pose a problem when their massive batteries need to be replaced.
30. Avoid buying a new car by keeping an old one going (The biggest part of the carbon footprint is in its manufacture, rather than its use.)
31. Get broken items repaired rather than replacing them with new ones.
32. Never release Chinese lanterns which have caused fires, helium-filled foil, or any kind of balloons, which have killed animals chewing them.
33. Remove plastic wrappers and rubber bands from flowers being laid outside.
34. Keep to footpaths in the countryside so that edges of crops are not trampled and wasted.
35. Thank God for the green spaces, trees, flowers and animals; the presence of which has been found to improve mental health. Pray for those who live in a concrete or poor environment.

Please email any further suggestions to office@witneyparish.org.uk