

Promoting Ethical Consumption- Eco Church Plan

- *A practical action plan for our Eco Church journey*
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1. Vision and Purpose

- As a church, we are called to live in a way that reflects God's love for people and creation. Ethical consumption is about making thoughtful choices in what we buy, use, and consume—considering the impact on workers, communities, animals, and the environment.
 - This plan sets out how we will encourage and support our church community to adopt more ethical patterns of consumption, both individually and collectively.
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2. What Ethical Consumption Means

- Ethical consumption involves choosing goods and services that:
 - Are produced fairly (e.g. fair wages and safe working conditions)
 - Minimise environmental harm
 - Avoid exploitation of people, animals, or resources
 - Support sustainable and responsible businesses
 - It includes everyday decisions about:
 - Food and drink
 - Clothing
 - Household goods
 - Energy and travel
 - Church purchasing
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3. Key Objectives

- Over the next 12–24 months, we aim to:
 1. **Raise Awareness**
Help the congregation understand why ethical consumption matters.
 2. **Enable Practical Change**
Provide tools, information, and opportunities to make ethical choices easier.
 3. **Lead by Example**
Ensure church purchasing and events reflect ethical principles.
 4. **Build Community Engagement**
Encourage shared learning, discussion, and action.

4. Actions and Initiatives

A. Worship and Teaching

- Include themes of stewardship, justice, and creation care in sermons and prayers
- Mark key events such as Creationtide or Harvest with an ethical consumption focus
- Offer Bible study sessions exploring consumption, simplicity, and generosity

B. Communication and Awareness

- Create pages on the church website (e.g. ethical investment, waste, consumption)
- Share tips in newsletters and social media
- Highlight one simple action each month (“Ethical Tip of the Month”)
- Display posters or noticeboard information in the church

C. Church Purchasing and Hospitality

- Commit to using **Fairtrade** tea, coffee, and sugar wherever possible
- Avoid single-use plastics at church events
- Choose environmentally friendly cleaning products and supplies
- Source locally produced and seasonal food for events

D. Practical Support for Individuals

- Provide guides on ethical shopping (food, clothing, energy, banking)
- Share information about local refill shops, markets, and ethical suppliers
- Encourage small, realistic changes rather than perfection

E. Community Activities

- Support or partner with any local ethical initiatives and businesses
- Encourage participation in campaigns (e.g. Fairtrade Fortnight)

7. Challenges and Approach

- We recognise that:

- Ethical choices can sometimes cost more
- Information can be confusing or overwhelming
- People are at different stages of the journey

