For Anglicans Lent is the time when we remember the 40 days that Jesus spent in the wilderness, facing challenge and temptation. It is a time when we reflect on God’s purpose for our life. This year we challenge you to give up single-use plastics – to reduce the actions which damage God’s Creation.

Over 8.3 billion tonnes of plastic have been produced since the 1950s. That’s enough plastic to cover every inch of the UK ankle-deep more than ten times over. Just 9% was recycled.

‘To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation, and sustain and renew the life of the earth’ The Anglican Communion’s Fifth Mark of Mission

**Food & drink**

- **Sunday 18 February Psalms 104: 25-30** ‘There is the sea, vast and spacious, teeming with creatures beyond number—living things both large and small.’ By 2050 we could have more plastic than fish (by weight) in the sea.
- **19 Buy in bulk to minimize or eliminate packaging** This goes for food and drink as well as cleaning supplies, toiletries, hardware items – anything that may come in plastic packaging.
- **20 Avoid overpackaged, processed, canned and frozen convenience foods** Stay clear of the three tomatoes sitting on a Styrofoam tray and covered in plastic cellophane.
- **21 Buy fresh bread that comes in either paper bags or no bags** This eliminates plastic wrapping waste from shop bought bread and help support local businesses.
- **22 Choose milk in returnable glass bottles** Many areas have local dairies that provides milk in returnable glass bottles rather than plastic or plastic-coated cardboard.
- **23 Use non-plastic containers for food – lunches, leftovers, freezing, storage, take-out, travelling...** Request takeaways use your container instead of their disposable one. Take a container when you buy meat, fish or cheese.
- **24 Shop at markets** Fresh food markets are not only often cheaper and fresher than supermarkets but they sell fruit and vegetables loose. Don’t forget to take your reusable bags.

**Bathroom**

- **Sunday 25 February Every day millions of microplastics enter the sea from toiletry products.**
- **Start a conversation or ask to talk about how you are taking action on plastics at church.**
- **26 Look around your bathroom and see what plastics you can replace** Do you have plastic bottles sitting in the shower? Find a brand you like and try and get it in bulk. If it’s not available in bulk – ask the manufacturer to offer it.
- **27 Use a razor with removable blades** Disposable razors and razor blades are two of the biggest contributors to plastic waste.
- **28 Check labels of toiletries** Did you know some facial scrubs & toiletries products contain tiny plastic beads? Avoid anything with “polyethylene” listed as an ingredient.
- **29 What lasting changes are you going to make?** Do you have old clothes that don’t fit or are out of style? Take them to a tailor or cobbler for altering.
- **6 Use bar soap instead of liquid hand soap** This is an easy change to make, if you are feeling keen you can even make your own soap bars.
- **7 Choose a bamboo toothbrush or a toothbrush with recyclable heads and try to find dental floss that doesn’t come in plastic packaging.**
- **9 Avoid foil wrapped crisps and chocolates** Some sweet wrappers are now recyclable but don’t forget to check.
- **10 Share your leftovers or unwanted food** Reduce waste by joining a food sharing network like Olio.
- **30 Take a look at sites like Get Swishing.**

**Kitchen**

- **Sunday 4 March Colossians 1:16-17** ‘For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible.’ Consider organising a community litter pick.
- **5 Look around your kitchen and see what plastics you can replace** Use a dish brush with a wooden handle and compostable bristles.
- **6 Use natural cleaning cloths instead of plastic & synthetic sponges** Compressed natural cellulose sponges are often sold without any plastic packaging.
- **7 Use a blender made of glass** If you find yourself needing to purchase a new blender in the future, try and go for a glass alternative if possible.
- **8 Buy glass and/or stainless steel containers for food storage** Glass works well for freezer storage as well, just ensure you leave room at the top of the jar.
- **23 Use second-hand non-plastic packaging** Not only can you make your own containers, but you can also buy your clothes online ask the retailer if they can reduce or remove plastic packaging.
- **14 Avoid wet wipes** These contain plastic fibres so don’t break down like toilet roll, despite often being described as flushable.
- **15 Do a clothes swap** Look online for local events or get advice on how to set up your own. Take a look at sites like Get Swishing.
- **16 Invest in quality** By doing this you are minimising the demand for cheap items that end up in landfill. In the long run it will save you money.
- **17 Request zero plastic packaging** If you’re buying clothes online ask the retailer if they can reduce or remove plastic packaging.

**Clothing**

- **Sunday 11 March Job 28:12-13** ‘But where can wisdom be found? Where does understanding dwell?’
- **Do you use disposable cups at church? Can you encourage people to bring their own mug?**
- **12 Choose natural fibres** Synthetic fabrics create microfibre pollution when washed. When buying new clothes look for organic cotton, wool, and other natural fibres.
- **13 Alter and Modify Old Shoes and Clothing into New** Do you have old clothes and shoes that you never wear because they don’t fit or are out of style? Take them to a tailor or cobbler for alteration.
- **24 Acquire necessary plastic items used instead of new** Check second-hand shops, Freecycle or Freegle. Look for sharing groups locally.
- **23 Buy second-hand plastic-free furniture** There’s lots of advice about repairing, upcycling and finding good wooden or metal furniture online.
- **20 Make it from scratch** Try and cook as much as possible from scratch and take your own sandwiches and snacks when you go out.
- **21 Avoid wet wipes** These contain plastic fibres so don’t break down like toilet roll, despite often being described as flushable.
- **14 Buy clothing second-hand** Buying clothes second hand not only saves you money but ensures that the second hand clothes you purchase have an extra long lease of life.
- **22 Adapt and Modify** Buying clothes second hand not only saves you money but ensures that the second hand clothes you purchase have an extra long lease of life.
- **15 Do clothes swaps** Look online for local events or get advice on how to set up your own. Take a look at sites like Get Swishing.

**Home**

- **Sunday 18 March Psalm 24:1-2** ‘The earth is the Lord’s and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it’.
- **19 Put a “No Junk Mail” sticker on your letterbox** This will reduce the number of letters with plastic windows. It will also reduce your paper waste.
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- **24 Don’t buy new CDs and DVDs** Stream or download music, shows, and films online or borrow them from the library or friends.

**Travel**

- **Sunday 25 March Micah 6:8** ‘He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.’
- **26 Avoid plastic pens and give aways** Try using a refillable pen or pencils.
- **27 Bring your own toiletries** Skip the free travel size shampoos, soaps, and lotions offered by hotels. Instead, fill up your own reusable travel-size containers at home.
- **28 Avoid the Mini bar snacks and drinks** Not only incredibly expensive but they all come in plastic packages or bottles. Even if you can’t avoid plastic entirely, you can resist single-serving sizes.
- **29 What lasting changes are you going to make?** Do you find yourself looking at plastics in a different way? List three things you are going to commit to changing.
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