

LENT CHALLENGE

Lent is the season when we remember Jesus' suffering for the sake of humankind. It is an invitation to reflect on the many ways we break God's heart through our own neglect, unkindness, and willful hurt and harm. Needless to say, giving up sweets (or whatever) does nothing to repair the damage humanity has caused. These few weeks that lead up to Easter are our opportunity to do something to help heal God's broken world.

Both humans and nature cry out for assistance and no one person – or denomination – can take on all the world's problems. Picking one concern and focusing on it is the best most of us can manage. As care of creation is an important part of Christianity's mission, the Church of England has decided to spend Lent 2018 addressing the problem of plastic waste.

Plastics play a vital role in human health and wellbeing but single-use (non-medical) plastic objects contribute far more to the destruction of our planet than they do to human happiness. According to the Northeast Recycling Council, 150 million tons of single-use plastics are produced annually. It is estimated that, every year, 8 million tons of plastic waste end up in our oceans. It is vital that we drastically reduce our usage of these disposable materials.

Please take the time to read the resource sheet compiled for the Church of England. See what steps you can take to reduce your consumption of single-use plastic items.

May this Lent be good for our spirits – and our streams and rivers and oceans!

*What a wildly wonderful world, God!
You made it all, with Wisdom at your side,
made earth overflow with your wonderful creations.*

*Oh, look—the deep, wide sea,
brimming with fish past counting,
sardines and sharks and salmon.*

Psalm 104: 24-25 The Message