



ECO ADVENT

from St Mary's, Iffley

ALL WRAPPED UP...

This Christmas, wrap your presents with the environment in mind

IT'S A WRAP

A huge 83km² of wrapping paper is thrown out in the UK every Christmas* – that's the equivalent to 108 million rolls*. If you buy wrapping paper, make sure that it is fully recyclable so avoid glitter and shiny paper. Even better, make sure that it is made of recycled paper itself. As an alternative to buying wrapping paper, consider using brown paper or newspaper and decorating it yourself. Material, scrap paper, or a scarf can make a great wrapping too. Or if you want to invest in something that can be used again and again, consider reusable cotton gift bags.

SEASON'S GREETINGS

Follow in the footsteps of some of the supermarkets this year, and ditch the glitter from your cards. Glitter is unrecyclable and if it's on your cards they will go to landfill. It can also drop off and find its way into the environment. That goes for other plastic adornments, foil, and stickers too. Reuse any cards you receive by cutting them up and turning them into gift tags, decorations, or bunting for next year. That means only half of every card you receive will need to be recycled.

STUCK ON YOU

An estimated 40 million rolls of sticky tape is used in the UK over the festive period*. But as this plastic tape can't be recycled, that's an awful lot of waste ending up in landfill. It also means that wrapping paper can't be recycled if there's sticky tape attached. This year, leave the tape to one side, and use ribbon, string, raffia or off cuts of material instead. By not using tape or glue, you also leave the paper in a better state to be reused to wrap presents next year. But if you have to stick, you can buy biodegradable tape from the village shop in two different sizes. And if brands are your thing, Sellotape does make a plant-based, plastic-free sticky tape alternative to their plastic mainstay.

* recycle-more.co.uk, *Top tips for a sustainable festive season that won't cost the earth*

* OnePoll.com research commissioned by GP Batteries

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GIVE A LITTLE...

Charities have been really hard hit this year, so if you send Christmas cards, buy them from a charity you support. Look for cards that are made of FSC certified material. This ensures that the paper used has been sustainably and ethically produced. Many charities, such as The Woodland Trust, sell cards that are wrapped in paper rather than cellophane, and use vegetable inks and a water-based varnish too. Remember to collect used postage stamps and drop them off to the church to help raise money for charity.