

# ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS DAYS

*There are many environmental awareness days throughout the year. These are a good opportunity to tie in your own community-events and special themed services to raise awareness of creation care.*

## January

Some people may be interested in swapping their meat-based meals to plant based, as inspired by [Veganuary](#). Read more about meat free Mondays [here](#).

[Plough Sunday](#) – 7 January 2024 - Start the year with hope for farmers and the soil, with a traditional blessing of the plough. Plough Sunday is the first agricultural festival of the year, and the Arthur Rank Centre provides a service resource here to help you plan your Plough Sunday service.

[Big Garden Birdwatch](#) 26-28 January 2024 - the world's largest garden wildlife survey. Every year, hundreds of thousands of nature lovers take part, helping to build a picture of how garden birds are faring. See what Hemblington Church did last year: [Watching the birdies at Hemblington — Diocese of Norwich](#)

## February

[Show the Love](#) campaign – encourage your MP to push for real and rapid action for our climate and nature.

## March

[The Great British Spring Clean](#) – 15 – 31 March 2024. Join in with the Keep Britain Tidy #millionmilemission campaign.

[World Water Day](#) - 22 March - accelerating change to solve the water and sanitation crisis. Some great opportunities to make symbolic actions to improve our water supply in the UK and around the world.

[Earth Hour](#) - 23 March - Since 2007, Earth Hour has been known for the “lights off” moment, with individuals from around the globe switching off their lights to show symbolic support for the planet and to raise awareness of the environmental issues affecting it.

## April

22 April [World Earth Day](#) – this annual event demonstrates support for environmental protection. First held on April 22, 1970, it now includes a wide range of events involving one billion people in more than 193 countries. In 2024 the theme is Planet v. Plastics

## May

[No Mow May](#) – Let your green space and pollinators flourish this May by not mowing for the whole month!

[National Walking Month](#) – a national initiative from Living Streets: “Walking is one of the easiest ways to improve our health and stay connected to our community, helping us feel less lonely and isolated.” Are you near a local pilgrimage route you could highlight?

[Christian Aid Week](#) – 12 – 18 May – resources all year round to help your church engage with the impacts of climate change on our global neighbours.

## June

[World Environment Day](#) - 5 June - Environment Sunday is always the Sunday nearest World Environment Day on June 5th. In 2024 the theme for World Environment Day is Journey to a Greener Future.

[Churches Count on Nature](#) – 8 – 16 June 2024 - Churches Count on Nature is part of Love Your Burial Ground Week, focusing on the brilliant wildlife to be found in churchyards. It is a joint initiative promoted by Caring for God’s Acre, the Church of England, the Church in Wales and A Rocha UK. See what our churches did last year: [Churches Count on Nature across the Diocese — Diocese of Norwich](#)

[Great Big Green Week](#) – 8 - 16 June 2024 - a nationwide celebration of community action on climate change.

[Bike Week](#) – 10 – 16 June – encourage people out of four wheels and onto two! Tie it in with Great Big Green Week. Cycle to church event anyone?

## July

**Plastic free July** - Plastic Free July is a global movement that helps millions of people be part of the solution to plastic pollution. You can find more details at [www.plasticfreejuly.org](http://www.plasticfreejuly.org) and at [www.citytosea.org.uk/plastic-free-living](http://www.citytosea.org.uk/plastic-free-living)

[National Marine Week](#) – 20 July – 4 August Dive into our mysterious underwater world with The Wildlife Trusts' annual celebration of all things marine!

## August

[Earth Overshoot Day](#) – 2nd August – the date at which our demand for resources exceeds the Earth’s capacity. The date is getting earlier each year, although we have the solutions to #MoveTheDate later

## September

[Creationtide](#) – Creationtide, or the [Season of Creation](#), is the period in the annual church calendar, from 1 September to 4 October, dedicated to God as Creator and Sustainer of all life. Could include Harvest festival services.

[Second-hand September](#) – a campaign from Oxfam to encourage people to buy second-hand to reduce their consumption.

[Fairtrade Fortnight](#) – 9 September – Sunday 22 September 2024. This is an amazing opportunity for your church and community to encourage and advocate the work of Fairtrade.

[Great British Beach Clean](#) – 13 - 22 September. Why not join in with a beach clean this September?

[World car-free day](#) – 22 September. Highlighting the benefits of going car-free

## November

[Tearfund's Big Quiz Night](#) – Hundreds of churches. Thousands of people. One Big Quiz Night. Join in! Dates for 2024 to be confirmed.

[Buy Nothing Day](#) – 24 November – Take part, by doing nothing – but tell everyone why!

## December

[National Tree Week](#) – late Nov/early Dec (dates for 2024 TBC). Why not apply for a free tree pack in advance and organise a community planting day.

[12 Days Wild](#) - a festive nature challenge, encouraging you to do one wild thing a day from the 25 December - 5 January each year. Your wild acts could be little things to help nature - like recycling your Christmas tree or feeding the birds – or ways to connect to the natural world, like taking in the calm of stargazing.

*This list will be updated each year. Please send any suggestions for inclusion to [barbara.bryant@dioceseofnorwich.org](mailto:barbara.bryant@dioceseofnorwich.org)*