

## Flowers & Sustainability - Horsham Eco Churches 9.9.23

### Flower Industry Concerns

- ❖ Until the 1970s flowers came from British farms, today from Holland, Columbia, Ecuador and Kenya flown to flower auctions in Holland
- ❖ Refrigerated storage and transport and sprayed with preservatives
- ❖ Massive carbon and chemical footprint
- ❖ Some producers are Fairtrade, many are not

### What is Floral Foam?

- Green water absorbing foam used to create flower arrangements
- Petroleum derived plastic by-product from non-renewable sources
- Single-use, non-recyclable and non-compostable plastic
- Takes 400 to 500 years in compost heaps to break down into smaller and smaller pieces of microplastic

### Floral Foam – Research

- Toxic compounds leached out of floral foam into surrounding water
- Consuming foam and being exposed to that water harmed marine and freshwater animals
- Bio Floral Foam biodegrades within 2-3 years in ideal landfill conditions, but is still microplastic and leached more toxic compounds into water than regular foam

<https://sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0048969719358218>

### Could You . . .

- Think seasonally and use locally grown or British sustainable flowers where possible?
- Plant shrubs and flowers within church grounds, gardens and allotments to use in future floral displays?
- Avoid putting floral foam in compost or natural environments?
- Avoid pouring water with floral foam fragments down sinks or drains, sieve through a tight weave fabric & pour into a hole in the ground?
- Reduce or stop using floral foam, avoid contaminating water and food chains, use other containers, chicken wire, moss and twig frames?
- Save money and free up foam storage areas for other uses?

### Resources & Case Studies

<https://ecochurch.arocha.org.uk/resources/buildings/>

**Sustainable Flowers and Floristry** presentation by Karen Park

<https://facebook.com/watch/?v=698782544985689>

**Facebook Group** <https://facebook.com/groups/964466733885149>

**Horsham Eco Churches** <https://horshamct.org.uk/eco-churches/>

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