



Eco-Challenge Summer 2026

For a large environmentally beneficial impact abolish the use of water in plastic bottles in both churches and UK homes. Give your preachers a glass of fresh tap water instead for the benefit of the planet and their health!

Why?

- 1) The standards for our tap water are far higher than for bottled water, so it is safer
- 2) It flows through the pipe network whereas bottled water is heavy to transport and uses fuel to do so, adding to its carbon footprint
- 3) The extraction of water for bottling in some part of the world (eg California and India) has reduced water availability locally, affecting agriculture and the communities own drinking water availability
- 4) Plastic is made from finite fossil fuels - and we would be better to reserve their use for chemicals such as fertilisers and medicines
- 5) The disposal of plastic bottles creates problems. Those tossed are contributing to the mass of plastic floating in the oceans or contributing to landfill sites. Recycling is complex as the waste material is bulky and expensive to transport and difficult to separate into different sorts before any recycling is possible
- 6) The plastic releases micro-particles which you then ingest when you drink the water and we do not fully know the risks to human health, but micro-plastics now inhabit all our cells. The rate of this is increased if the bottles are exposed to any heat or light