

Marown Church

DID YOU KNOW?

SUSTAINABLE FLOWERS FOR OUR CHURCHES

Flowers bring our churches alive every Sunday. They are visual symbols of creation, resurrection, and the presence of the Holy Spirit and we are grateful to all the volunteers who make this happen. But on Saturday 26th September, in a packed St John's Church Hall, representatives from 13 churches gathered for a sustainable flower workshop organised by the Diocese of Sodor and Man as part of a celebration of the Season of Creation and what they learned was truly eye-opening.

Not only can flower arranging be expensive, but there is also a hidden impact on Creation with imported blooms. Roses, for example, may be transported from as far away as Ethiopia (4,000 miles as the crow flies) and Colombia (5,200 miles) to the Isle of Man. In comparison to local flowers, the carbon footprint varies dramatically depending on origin and season:

Locally grown, seasonal flowers: 0.1 – 0.5 kg CO₂e per bouquet

Domestic greenhouse flowers (heated): 2 – 4 kg CO₂e per bouquet

Imported flowers (air-freighted): 3 – 9 kg CO₂e per bouquet

For context, 2.7 kg of CO₂ is the average daily carbon footprint of a person in Africa. Choosing flowers grown closer to home can reduce transport-related emissions and support a more sustainable approach.

And that's not all. A key focus was the use of floral foam. Designed for a single use, it does not biodegrade. Instead of breaking down safely, it crumbles into tiny, toxic microplastics that persist in our soil and waterways forever. Astonishingly, just one block of standard floral foam contains the equivalent amount of plastic found in roughly 10 plastic bags. The workshop demonstrated that attractive, secure arrangements can be created without floral foam, by using more sustainable mechanics and materials.

If you want to read more about this fascinating topic, follow this link to the full story on the Diocese of Sodor and Man website. <https://www.sodorandman.im/sustainable-flowers-for-our.../>

There is also a downloadable booklet full of ideas for alternatives to the foam which should be available here: <https://www.sodorandman.im/.../Alternatives-to-Foam-1.pdf>