Did you know it is United Nations World Toilet day on 19th November?

In a changing world, one thing is constant: we'll always need toilets!

We had a recent discussion in our Eco Church WhatsApp group about whether it was better for the environment to use bamboo toilet paper or recycled paper. Whilst these choices are important, it is worth remembering that we are privileged that we have access to toilets (and toilet paper for that matter). The *United Nations Word Toilet Day 2026* highlights the billions of people who still live without a safe toilet, and it's the poorest, especially women and girls, who are worst affected.

The focus of *World Toilet Day* this year is on safe toilets for women and girls. The key messages are:

- Unsafe sanitation reinforces gender inequality
- When sanitation services fail to meet women's needs, entire communities are held back.
- Safe toilets protect women and girls' health, safety, dignity and opportunity
- Safe toilets promote equal futures

Global pressure on sanitation is increasing. Aging infrastructure is failing, investment hasn't kept pace with demand, and climate change is reshaping our world. And yet access to safe sanitation is a human right.

So, what can we do about it?

- Raise awareness amongst family, friends and workplace or school communities. There are lots of ideas in the UN Resource pack: https://www.un.org/en/observances/toilet-day/resources
- Donate and twin your toilets via the Toilet Twinning website: https://toilettwinning.org/. Every toilet twinned supports local teams to provide sustainable access to decent toilets.
- Use your own facilities with gratitude and awareness of the impact they have on world resources - maybe that conversation about which type of toilet paper to use is important after all?