



## Richmond Team Ministry

# GREENTIPS

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*'The gospel is Good  
News for God's earth'*

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Welcome to Issue Two of our Quarterly GreenTips newsletter. As a church and congregation we should be expressing our care for God's world in both our worship and teaching. We should be caring for our buildings and our land and engaging with our local communities (and in global campaigns) to enhance our world. We should all be considering our personal lifestyles to determine if as individuals we are doing all that we can to care for our planet. Our Newsletter - GreenTips – updates us on the steps the church is taking but also offers ideas for us all to try! Our second edition covers our progress with EcoChurch, highlights recycling options in our borough and challenges us all to engage with the Earth Hour.

### Rocha EcoChurch

In order to help us express our care for God's World, as you know our three churches have joined the [Rocha Ecochurch Scheme](#). The EcoChurch vision is for churches of all denominations to care for creation as an integral part of loving their neighbours and following God faithfully. All three churches have now achieved Bronze status.



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*All Creation reveals  
the Glory of God*

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The Green Team is a group made up of clergy and congregation members from all three churches. We meet every few months to plan how to both work towards Silver status in the Ecochurch Scheme but also to ensure we care for God's earth irrespective of external awards. We would welcome new members to join us – no experience necessary just a willingness to learn and work together.

Since our last newsletter we hosted our first Green Chat with Cllr Julia Neden Watts (deputy leader of the Council as well as Chair of the Environment, Sustainability, Culture and Sports Committee). This was a fascinating opportunity to hear from Julia about what the local borough is doing, which was very well received, but also to ask questions about how people can get involved, future plans for Heathrow expansion and local requirements for landlords. It would be good to invite Julia to speak again.

We have reviewed our cleaning materials to check they are all environmentally friendly, we have joined the LBRUT Green Network and have advertised our car share scheme. On that note please do let us know if you interested in joining in with the scheme. It is a very simple

scheme where we will match up those who drive to church with those in their local vicinity to share lifts and cut down on unnecessary journeys.

Our next meeting of the Green Team is being planned when we will be reviewing what our young people might do in the terms of wildlife surveys and perhaps establishing insect hotels and thinking about our carbon footprint. Do contact Emma Meredith ([emeredith@ctpa.org.uk](mailto:emeredith@ctpa.org.uk)) if you would like to join us.

## Green Chat



We hope you agree our first effort to engage with local Green leaders and Green advisors over coffee after our joint services about what is going on in our area and what we can do as a church and individually to be Green was a great success.

We will be planning another Green Chat with coffee at a joint RTM service. We will keep you updated on this. If you have any ideas for topics to discuss at these sessions, do get

in touch!

## Reuse or recycle – what are the options?

LBRUT have a great A to Z of recycling and reuse options – click to find out what to do with a range of household goods [www.richmond.gov.uk/where\\_to\\_recycle\\_your\\_items](http://www.richmond.gov.uk/where_to_recycle_your_items)

From A – Aerosol cans to V – Vapes – so not quite the whole alphabet but there are some great options such as put rubber bands in the post box and the post office will reuse and sending your empty printer ink cartridges off to recycle for charity [www.recycle4charity.co.uk](http://www.recycle4charity.co.uk)

The [www.recyclenow.com/recycle-an-item](http://www.recyclenow.com/recycle-an-item) website is a great search engine where you select your item for recycling and type in your postcode. A list of local facilities is then provided with distances from your address included. So for instance I can recycle my old spectacles via the Lions Clubs – who incidentally have recently sent 35 boxes of glasses to the Ukraine.



**Let's do this as a church – bring all your old glasses including sunglasses to church for the next month and we will send them off at the end of March. How many do you think we can collect?**

## LIBRARY OF THINGS

## Another new local idea – Borrow don't buy – stop collecting that clutter.

LBRUT has teamed up with The Library of Things - which helps you save money and reduce waste by affordably renting out useful things from local spaces. The Library of Things locally is based in Twickenham in the co working space – PATCH – which is very near to the town hall. There are already up to 30 things you can borrow – from sewing machines, pressure washers, pasta makers to paper shredders. What a great idea – just use the item then return - no need to buy and then store when you just need it for one job.

[www.libraryofthings.co.uk](http://www.libraryofthings.co.uk) – sharing the things we only use once or twice cuts down on clutter and is kinder to the planet. Check out the website to sign up (which is free) and then start to borrow. You can also add things to the wish list of items they might include in the future – any thoughts??



## Tips for a Green Easter

Whilst we all should celebrate Easter and the risen Christ - let's face it the commercialism is increasing. How do we have a more eco approach to the celebrations? This link offers some great ideas for the whole family - [www.zerosmart.co.uk/post/eco-easter-ideas](http://www.zerosmart.co.uk/post/eco-easter-ideas) such as baking treats rather than gifting over packaged Easter Eggs or suggesting those Eggs we can buy with no plastic packaging at all. There are ideas for a Bunny sweet holder made from a loo roll tube or gifting daffodil bulbs or plants rather than cut flowers.

The Rocha EcoChurch scheme has suggested we could also cut down on paper by having a communal Easter Card scheme where we all sign one large card wishing everyone much joy at Eastertime. Emma and the children will make something for each church for us all to sign which will be fabulous.

## Green Dates for the Diary 2024

March 23 Earth Hour – turn off ALL the lights for an hour at 8.30pm – we hope all our congregations will sign up to this easy win and will remind you in the weekly newsletter

April 22 World Earth Day - focus on reducing plastics – join us on a litter pick the weekend following – 28<sup>th</sup> April after the 09.30 service in St Mary's church yard - we will borrow litter pickers from Heritage and Habitats so no need to get your hands dirty!

May – No Mow May will be back in the church yard

June 10 – Bike week - cycle to church and to work or school all week – we will publish a montage of pics if you send in the evidence!

September 22 – Car Free Day – walk or cycle to church today

October 21 – Recycle Week – keep an eye out for our plans for the week

## Green Team

We hope you have enjoyed our second Green Tips newsletter? If you have any ideas do please get in touch via the Parish Office, or email Emma at [emeredit@ctpa.org.uk](mailto:emeredit@ctpa.org.uk)

We would also love pictures of our congregations engaging in GREEN activities – pics of your allotments, recycling piles at home, washing drying on the line not in the tumble dryer, charity shop bargain..... here is my daughter in her entirely thrifted outfit including a belt she purchased at the church fair where we used to live!!!

