



## Richmond Team Ministry

# GREENTIPS

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

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Welcome to Issue Three of our Quarterly GreenTips newsletter. As churches we should be expressing our care for God's world in both our worship and living. 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 third edition covers ongoing progress Beyond Bronze with the EcoChurch project as well as our plans for the Great Big **GREEN** week and some useful information on recycling cosmetics and pharmaceutical articles.

### A Rocha EcoChurch

In order to help us express our care for God's World, as you know our three churches have joined a [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 are now working Beyond Bronze! We are each aiming to gain the Silver award by the end of 2024. We have already achieved Gold level in terms of our worship and teaching which of course is a very important section.

So what have the Green Team been doing over the last few months? As part of the Global Recycling Day (18 March) we collected all your old prescription glasses and sunglasses. We sent an incredible 149 sets to the Lions Club who wash them, grade them and then send them directly to children and adults in other less developed countries – well done all those who donated. Become 'specs savers' and we will do this again next year!

We had a Litter Picking session after a morning service at St Marys to celebrate World Earth Day (22 April). You would be amazed what we found – a (toy) crown, a swimming pool float and a sofa cushion to name but a few. Thanks to all those who attended including one furry friend and there will be another opportunity in September to join us again in tidying the churchyard as part of our plans for World Clean Up Day (15 September).





Our young people made amazing and enormous Easter cards – one for each church - so that we could share Easter Greetings in a more environmentally friendly way. We do so hope you enjoyed seeing their creations, adding your Easter messages and of course helping to save the planet by reducing the number of individual cards we send.

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.

Contact Emma Meredith ([emeredith@ctpa.org.uk](mailto:emeredith@ctpa.org.uk)) or any of the clergy if you would like to join us.

## RECYCLING IDEAS

### Cosmetics & Medication packages

Some of things we find most difficult to recycle are the small cosmetic packaging such as lipsticks and mascara tubes. Some are so tiny they would be lost in our kerbside recycling and some are made of composite materials. There is good news you can now take these back to many high street shops including Boots the Chemist and some Sainsburys. Superdrug, another high street pharmacy will also take back medication blister packs. The medication cardboard packaging and plastic bottles can all go in the kerbside waste. Don't forget though to take unused medications back to the pharmacy counter for safe disposal.



### Pink Bins

You can now recycle your unwanted small electrical items in Richmond at one of the 20 new PINK bins or with your weekly kerbside collection. Anything with a plug, battery or a cable up to the size of a two-slice toaster can be recycled and turned into something new through this scheme. Research suggests we each have up to 30 unwanted electrical items hidden at home and 39% of us put these in the waste rather than recycle – no excuses now!

### Reuse or recycle locally – what are your options?

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

## No Idling

Leaving your car engines running when stationary is not only illegal but a huge cause of air pollution and can impact on our health.

Members of the PCC (Parochial Church Council) are keen to highlight the No Idling requirements to all the congregation.

**Turn your engine off at every stop!**



## Green Dates for the Diary 2024

May – No Mow May is back in the church yard – we think it looks rather beautiful.

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!

June 8-16 - Big Green Week – why not have a book swap or toy swap coffee morning with friends?

September 2-6 - Zero Waste week – we will be collecting wool, knitting needles, cotton, zips, elastic etc for [www.workaid.org](http://www.workaid.org) who send these items to Africa and help to train young people to use them

September 16 – World Clean-up day – join us on another litter pick on 15<sup>th</sup> of the month

We hope you have enjoyed our third 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 bargains..... there might even be an environmentally friendly prize for the best pic!

