



## Richmond Team Ministry **GREENTIPS**

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

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Welcome to Issue Four 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 fourth edition covers some of our Green Actions since the last newsletter, an update on our future plans, a story from one of our congregation who has used the 'Library of Things' and great ideas for reducing our plastic use.

### A Rocha EcoChurch - UPDATE

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.



scootered to the office all week!

So what have the Green Team been doing over the last few months? Mid June was Bike Week – we encouraged you all to bike (or to walk) to church. One of our choristers – Ruth – certainly has a very colourful bike and made use of the railings for securing her bike during the morning service! John, our lovely parish administrator, took on the challenge and





As part of the Big Green Week, St Mary Magdalene's congregation held a bring and share lunch with a twist!! **'Try as far as you can to use local produce and no single use plastic at all'**. It was a lovely morning with amazing things to eat, enjoyed by many and no single use plastic in sight. Check out the greaseproof wrapping on the fresh fruit selection.



And here are our plans for the next few months –

Tools for Life  
**WORKAID.**

For the first two weeks of September we will be collecting

- Dressmaking fabric
- Leather

- Reels of thread
- Scissors
- Pins & needles
- Ribbon & lace
- Elastic
- Zips
- Buttons
- Wool
- Sewing machines

This is part of our contribution to Zero Waste week – we will be supporting **Workaid** who send these items to Africa and help to train young people to use them.

Please leave all contributions in the boxes at the back of church – thank you.

September 2-6 - Zero Waste week – as part of our commitment to Zero Waste we are asking you all to sort through your haberdashery items as we will be collecting fabric, wool, knitting needles, cotton, zips, elastic etc for [www.workaid.org](http://www.workaid.org) who send these items to Africa. The charity also helps to train young people to use the items and thus provides them with a trade. There will be collecting boxes in each church.

September 7<sup>th</sup> – our own Book and CD sale – selling preloved books and CDs and raising money for the Soup Kitchen. Do come along and support and of course let all your friends and family know to come and find some bargains. What could be better than finding a real treasure and being **GREEN** by recycling at the same time!

## Nearly New Book and CD Sale

St Mary Magdalene Church Walk

Saturday 7th September  
11 til 3

In aid of Richmond Soup Kitchen



Finally we have another litter pick planned for tidying the churchyard as part of our plans for World Clean Up Day in September. We will be litter picking on 29<sup>th</sup> September after morning service at St Marys – do join us. All picking equipment will be provided but you might want to bring gloves. Of course there will be coffee and biscuits too.

## REDUCING PLASTIC – SOME IDEAS



It is estimated that unless we reduce our plastic use there will be more plastic in the sea than there are fish by 2050! (Ellen MacArthur Foundation)

Click on the links!

This first link takes you to a list of shops and businesses who are all local to Richmond and will help us to cut our plastic usage – either

through refilling our original packaging or offering items unpackaged or in paper bags.

<https://greenrichmond.org.uk/plastic-free>

This second link takes you to a site offering hundreds of plastic free ideas – plastic free cleaning, plastic free pets, plastic free parenting, plastic free fashion and so on.

<https://www.citytosea.org.uk/plastic-free-living/>

We also highlighted in our last edition that small plastic cosmetic packaging such as lipsticks and mascara tubes can be taken 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.

## Library of Things – an update from Jackie Harrison



We decided to spend the late May Bank holiday weekend clearing out two large sheds at the bottom of our garden prior to (hopefully) moving house later this year. We booked a skip which was delivered late on the Thursday afternoon. Family & friends had offered to help and everything seemed to be very well planned. Then, just a couple of days before the weekend, my son said “It’s going to be hard work carrying everything down the garden to the front of the house, we could really do with a trolley. Let’s look on Amazon and see if we can get one delivered tomorrow.”

We were about to order one when I suddenly remembered the article in Issue 2 of Greentips about the Library of things: “Borrow don’t buy – stop collecting that clutter.” I quickly went online and was delighted to find that I could borrow a trolley for only £5 a day (or £18 a week). So I signed up to join the library and went to collect the trolley on the Friday morning. On arriving at the library, you simply need to enter the code sent to in the email sent confirming my booking on the screen in the middle of a unit containing several lockers. You are then given a code to unlock the locker containing the item that you have booked (or, in my case, padlocked to the end of the unit) and you simply take your “thing” home.



We had collected an enormous amount of clutter over 26 years and most of the contents of the sheds needed to go straight into the skip. Thanks to the trolley, we had filled the first skip by Friday lunchtime! We had it collected and replaced with a second skip early on Saturday morning and were delighted to have completed the task of clearing the sheds.



The Library of Things helps you save money and reduce waste by affordably renting out useful things from local spaces. The Library of Things is based in Twickenham in the co working space – PATCH – near to the town hall. There are already almost 40 things you can borrow – from sewing machines, pressure washers, pasta makers to paper shredders. Sharing the things we only use once or twice cuts down on clutter and is kinder to the planet.

So true Jackie – thanks for sharing your story.

Here is the link to try it yourself - <https://participate.libraryofthings.co.uk/twickenham>

## REGULAR REMINDER - 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)

## Green Dates for the Diary for the rest of 2024

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 29<sup>th</sup> of the month

October 4 – No Recyclable Cup day – that is a challenge for all of us who love to pop into a coffee shop and pick up a takeaway.....

November 29<sup>th</sup> – Buy Nothing Day – an even greater challenge and the same day as 'Black Friday' - one of the busiest shopping days in the year.

## The Green Team

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.

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