



Richmond Team Ministry **GREENTIPS**

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

Welcome to our second year of our Quarterly GreenTips newsletter. We really hope you enjoy reading it as much as we enjoying putting it together. We all care for God's world in both our worship and living – we need to care for our buildings and our land and engage with our local communities (and in global campaigns) to enhance our world. In order to to help us consider our personal lifestyles to ensure we are doing all that we can to care for our planet - this newsletter - **GreenTips** – aims to both update us on the steps the church is taking but also offers ideas for us all to try! Our first edition of year two covers our Green Actions since the last newsletter, a list of Green Dates for 2025, some ideas for a Green Christmas and how penguins have supported toilets.....

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. As you know all three churches are now working Beyond Bronze! We are each aiming to gain the Silver award in early 2025 We have already achieved Gold level in terms of our worship and teaching which of course is a very important section and should be celebrated



Here is an update on some of our Green activities since the last GreenTips

ZERO WASTE WEEK

As a Team Ministry we supported Zero Waste Week – the first week in September - with a collection of haberdashery items - fabric, wool, knitting needles, cotton, zips, elastic etc for www.workaid.org who send these items to Africa. We had an amazing response so a huge thank you to you all – we collected a car full of items including 2 sewing machines and so many knitting needles!



The charity also helps to train young people to use the items and thus provides them with a trade. Workaid was established in the 1980s when famine in Ethiopia left over



one million people dead and a further eight million at risk of starvation. Ken Nunn – a local solicitor in Buckinghamshire – called a meeting which was attended by 30 people from churches and the local community.



A local businessman offered space in his premises in Little Chalfont. This became Workaid's first workshop and they now send tools of all description (as well as funding to support training) to Uganda, Tanzania and Zambia. They also offer in house training opportunities here in the UK for people with learning disabilities. Here are some pics of the HUGE collection all delivered by electric car (so a super green project) to the HQ in Chesham. You can sign up for the Workaid newsletter on this link <https://workaid.org/newsletters>



RECYCLING BOOKS AND CDS

St Mary's held a second book and CD sale in September raising over £1300 for the Richmond Soup Kitchen Such a fun way to recycle and very popular with the residents of Richmond and further afield. There were many requests for repeat events so we hope to run a second handbook sale every September. Any books not sold at the end of day were passed on to Fara which is a second hand book shop in Teddington. This charity supports vulnerable young people in Romania.

<https://www.faracharity.org/shop/teddington-books/>.

The book shop (and there is also a great section for kids) is a great place for browsing and finding a bargain so it was excellent to be able to support this great charity too.



Jo recycled an old curtain as signage for the event too!

LITTER PICK

We held another litter pick to tidy up the churchyard in support of World Clean Up Day in September. It is unbelievable the amount of rubbish we collected and the items we found – almost an entire bike in pieces. Thanks to all who took part





and to Heritage and Habitats – a local charity – who lent us the pickers and provided the special rubbish bags that the council will then collect and dispose of. We were supplied with coffee and biscuits and the rain held off.

Who can spot the bike wheel?

If you do a local clear up in your own street or area there is a fantastic app you can use to report to the LBRUT – Love Clean Streets – you just add the address, report how many bags of rubbish there are and the local authority come along and collect without further ado!

CLIMATE, ANTARTICA & TOILETS Jutta Raftery

“It all began about 40 years with my love of penguins. I read about them to increase my knowledge then started to save for a trip to actually see them. My first trip in 2000 was to the Ross Sea on a Russian icebreaker. On this trip I joined the "Friends of the Scott Polar Research Institute" (SPRI) belonging to Cambridge University. My second expedition in 2008 was to the Antarctic Peninsula, followed to a trip to Svalbard and another one to the East coast of Greenland. My last trip in March 2024 was again to the Peninsula.



The expedition this March was alarming! Earlier you would never travel after the end of January because the cold Antarctic winter started in February. This time we had no temperatures below 0 degrees Celsius nor was the water any colder when we did the traditional polar plunge. Instead of only shades of gray, black and white there were new colours previously

unknown down there. We saw green and pink algae on the snow acting like a warm blanket as well as grass and bright green moss on the black rocks. Icebergs are melting at an alarming speed. Global warming at the two polar sides of the planet is progressing three times faster than elsewhere in the world”.

Jutta gave a fascinating talk about her trips, her concerns about climate change and those in the audience donated money towards our Toilet Twinning project.

Toilet Twinning is highlighted as one of the Eco Church aims. TearFund runs this programme where we can all fund a toilet at just £60 per loo. The principle of toilet twinning is simple – you choose a toilet you use, and ‘twin’ it with one given to a community who are in need of safe places to go to the toilet. The money donated not only funds a toilet, but also helps support community education and sanitation programmes. Look out for the certificates which will show where in the



world our twinned toilets are located <https://toilettwinning.org/product/twin-a-toilet-today>



Talking of toilets have you noticed that some public loos are using harvested rain water? Bella spotted some in the new building at Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park (UCL eastern outpost) - 'In an effort to be more sustainable our WCs use harvested rain water. This can however cause the WC water to be discoloured at times...' Sir Edwin Chadwick (1801 - 1890) - a local resident of Montague Rd, Richmond - was a lead reformer of sanitary reform – wonder what he would think of these eco loos. See if you can spot the Blue Plaque next time you are walking past his house

And what about eco friendly loo paper...things to consider include the material used, where it is sourced from as well as the manufacturing process. And don't use tissues and kitchen roll as these were not made to be flushed!

<https://www.which.co.uk/reviews/toilet-roll/article/how-to-buy-more-sustainable-toilet-paper-aSOc28v8rj9E> This recent report by Which is a really good read and you can also sign up to Which's Sustainability Newsletter offering you great insight into sustainable products.

I'M DREAMING OF A GREEN CHRISTMAS – SOME IDEAS

The Bank of England calculated that the average UK household splurges £800 extra in December on food and drink as well as gifts - included in this is an average of 17 gifts bought per individual, according to Amazon (data based on 2020 figures so this is probably an underestimation).

And according to Biffa, the waste management company, the UK creates 30% more waste than usual over Christmas. This includes an estimated 227,000 miles of wrapping paper and one billion cards that end up in the bin. An estimated 20% of gifts – some 120m items – will already be headed for landfill on Boxing Day, according to the UK Giftcard and Voucher Association.

Last year our GreenTips December issue concentrated on sustainable giving - giving services rather than gifts – offers of dog walking, babysitting, car cleaning, IT support or experiences to savour – theatre trip, afternoon tea or spa sessions Edible treats especially home made treats or home grown flowers and veggies were also suggested. This year in our house the challenge has been laid down – all presents MUST be purchased from a charity shop or must be recycled. Easy for my daughter whose flat is above OXFAM and seems to have a hotline to the manager for when special goodies are donated. Without giving away any secrets I made a couple of purchases already at our church second hand book sale so am getting prepared.

Another idea is for those of us who really have all that we might need is to give a gift in our name – Unicef have a great list of things – school bags, vaccines, soap - with footballs for schoolkids in Africa starting at only £10. Many charities offer similar gift programmes - <https://shop.unicef.org.uk/collections/inspired-gifts>.

We also talked about green wrapping – best to avoid metallic wrapping paper as this cannot be recycled. The test is does it spring back in to shape if scrunched – if so it won't recycle.. Also, we should be choosing Christmas cards that don't have foil embellishments, meaning they are easier to recycle too or perhaps thinking about sending online cards rather than physical ones.



Slices of citrus fruit, dried in a low oven on a non-stick tray for 2-3 hours, look lovely hung up with ribbons and make for great eco-friendly Christmas decorations. With a little imagination, you can make your tree look magical without spending a small fortune on shiny plastic. You can also tie them with string for a parcel decoration.



And for the kids here is a great youtube video for making a simple origami Father Christmas – and here is a picture of my Santa creation.....

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2farlhL5Huc>

We wish you are peaceful, happy and green Christmas.

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

GREEN DIARY DATES - 2025

January – Veganuary – can you go vegan or maybe even vegetarian for the month?

March 18th Global Recycling Day – we will repeat our spectacles collection

March 11th-18th Big Plastic Count – let's all sign up next year

March 23rd Earth Hour @8.30pm – lets ALL turn off the lights for the hour

22nd April Earth Day – join us for another litter pick

May– No Mow May

7th-15th June – Big Green Week – plans to follow

20th June Clean Air Day – Walk to Church Sunday

1st – 5th September Zero Waste week – look out for next year's theme



September 20 – World Clean-up day – join us on another litter pick

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 28th – 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) or any of the clergy if you would like to join us.

We hope you have enjoyed our latest 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

We would also love pictures of our congregations engaging in GREEN activities over Christmas for our next edition please. Do send photos and your stories and ideas to the office. Thank you.