



Richmond Team Ministry **GREENTIPS**

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

Welcome to our Spring edition of the 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 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 Spring edition of year two covers our plans for the first half of 2025 and how you can help as well as an invitation to the Kew Eco-Fair at St Lukes. We also highlight the new pod recycling service in the borough for you coffee drinkers out there.

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 sometime in 2025.

The criteria have been updated this year but still scores five key areas of church life -

- Worship and teaching
- Buildings and energy
- Land and nature
- Community and global engagement
- Lifestyle

The team wide Green Team is in the process of working through the revised criteria to identify what is needed to progress to the next award. In the meantime read on to see what we have been doing and the plans we have already made.

THE GREENER SIDE

Every year a recorded 65 million printer and copier cartridges are sold in the UK alone and **only** an estimated 15% of these are either reused or recycled. The other 85% either end up in UK landfill sites causing damaging and irreversible effects on the environment



or are exported to a number of third world e-waste dumps overseas where labour costs to dismantle the cartridges are cheap.


RTM has signed up to ECS The Greener Side who collect and recycle our office cartridges. Here is John in the office with the Greener Side recycling box.

Did you know laser toner consumables containing toner powder are classed as hazardous waste. That means you must recycle them properly and used toner cartridges are 97% recyclable. Using remanufactured toner cartridges also saves energy. Approximately 3.4 litres of oil are burned in the production of a single new toner cartridge. A used toner cartridge can be remanufactured up to four times, thus potentially saving up to 13.6 litres of oil Pretty impressive stuff!

We can all recycle our used toners from home – many suppliers offer a free return service when new ones are purchased but also you can post to Recycle for Charity. There is a freepost address and the charity sorts those that can be reused or recycles them properly. To date they have raised over £1.5 million for charity. www.recycle4charity.co.uk



THE GREEN TEAM

We are a small but perfectly formed team  representing the three churches but we are always looking for new and enthusiastic congregation members – young and old - to help with our plans and of course those with any new ideas. We meet both in person but also online which is very green as no transport required at all. If you would like to talk about joining us for one off projects or coming onto the team we would love to hear from you – please contact Emma Meredith emeredith@ctpa.org.uk. You can see from our last meeting we are all having fun.



THIS YEAR'S MAY FAIR

TIME FOR RECYCLING BOOKS, CDS, BOTTLES AND UNWANTED GIFTS

Early warning that this year's May Fair will be on the 10th May. Our ever popular book and CD stall is looking for all your preloved items which will be given new homes and this recycling will be raising money for our chosen good cause

We are also looking for full and unused bottles of wine, spirits, oils or vinegars, bubble bath and so on or



any unwanted but new gifts such as toiletry sets, biscuit tins for our popular tombola stall.

Please start sorting through your shelves and cupboards ready for our appeal in late April.

GLOBAL RECYCLING DAY 18th March



As it was so successful last year we are going to repeat the spectacles and sunglasses collection as our contribution to Global Recycling Day. We collected over 100 pairs last year – let's try and beat that!!! We will be sending them off to the Lions Club who use them to improve the sight of children and adults living in other less developed countries. All donations are washed and regraded then sent directly to those in need throughout the world. There will be boxes from now until the end of March in all three churches - please hunt through those desk drawers and bring all those unwanted spectacles to church. 🕶️

OTHER GREEN DATES FOR THE DIARY 2025

EARTH HOUR – 22 March

Since 2007, Earth Hour has been known for the “lights off” moment, with individuals from around the globe switching off their lights to show symbolic support for the planet and to raise awareness of the environmental issues affecting it. So please join us at 8.30pm on the 22 March and switch off ALL your lights. We can use the time to do something positive for our planet – to pray, to think about the impact of our actions, to look for books to donate for the May Fair.....Here are some more ideas for giving your hour <https://www.earthhour.org/take-part/give-an-hour>

All our churches will be in darkness with all lights off for the hour.



LITTER PICK



27th April to celebrate Earth Day 2025

Heritage and Habitats – a local charity – will again lend us the pickers and provide the special rubbish bags that the council will then collect and dispose of. We will of course be supplied with coffee and biscuits and hopefully be litter picking in the

sunshine! The churchyard will then look lovely for the May Fair two weeks later. Please do come along after the service and give us 30 minutes of your time – many hands will make light work.

Don't forget 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 – <https://lovecleanstreets.info> – you just add the address, report how many bags of rubbish there are and the local authority come along and collect without further ado!

NO MOW MAY

We will be supporting this again in May and hoping the rewilding areas look as beautiful as last year.

MORE GREEN DATES

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

20th June Clean Air Day – RTM Action: Walk to Church Sunday 22 June

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

20th September – World Clean-up day – RTM Action: Join us for a litter pick on Sunday 21st September

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

28th November – Buy Nothing Day – An even greater challenge and the same day as 'Black Friday' - one of the busiest shopping days in the year.

KEW ECO FAIR



Following its huge success in 2023, Kew EcoFair is back on **Saturday March 22nd 2025**, at St Luke's Church, Kew, from 10am to 3pm.

This award-winning event for the whole family aims to bring together the community to inspire action on climate change. This year's fair will be officially opened by its patron – the **broadcaster Jeremy Vine**, and London's **Deputy Mayor for the Environment Mete Coban MBE** as well as the **Mayor of Richmond, Cllr Richard Pyne**.

There will be free bike checks, kids activities, second hand clothes sale, ethical shopping and the Repair Café plus musical entertainment.

It is free to attend but you need a book a ticket online – here is the link <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/kew-ecofair-2025-tickets-1243629201419>

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

HOT OFF THE PRESS - Residents can now recycle used coffee, tea and hot chocolate pods free of charge at Townmead Road Reuse and Recycling Centre. The new service has been launched to help make coffee pod recycling as easy as possible in partnership with [Podback](#), a not-for-profit recycling service created and funded by the UK's leading coffee pod systems and over 25 coffee pod brands and national retailers.



Simply collect your used pods keeping plastic and aluminium pods separate. There's no need to remove coffee grounds. All the pods collected by Podback are recycled in the UK. They are shredded to remove the coffee, then the plastic and aluminium are used to create new products, including packaging, car components and building products. The coffee grounds will be treated by anaerobic digestion to create renewable energy (biogas) and soil improver.

OVER TO YOU.....

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 to add some pictures of our congregations engaging in GREEN activities for our next edition please. Do send photos and your stories and ideas to the office. Thank you.

Here are some pics of the items I have **Freecycled** this month (given away for free via a great local website)there will be an article about Richmond Freecycle next edition – watch this space!

