



## Richmond Team Ministry **GREENTIPS**

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

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Welcome to our Summer edition of the Quarterly GreenTips newsletter. We have really enjoyed putting this edition together as there is so much good news to share and some exciting events coming up. Let us all continue to care for God's world in our worship and living – caring for our buildings and our land and engaging with our local communities (and in global campaigns) to enhance our world.

GreenTips is one of the ways which help us to consider and reflect upon our personal lifestyles to ensure we are doing all that we can to care for our planet. Our Summer edition of year two brings news of our GREEN events so far this year, all our exciting plans for the second half of the year and a feature on the local Freecycle project as well as the new Reuse area at Townmead Reuse and Recycling Centre.

### **A Rocha EcoChurch - REMINDER**

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 of this month over 8,400 churches have signed up.

**Eco Church online Prayer Forum, Thursday 19 June, 12 noon - 1 pm**

Join the Eco Church community online to encourage each other through prayer. Share a reflection altogether, then pray in breakout groups for local, national, and global issues, including praying for the Eco Church work in our churches. All are welcome

Sign up at <https://arocha.org.uk/event/eco-church-prayer-forum-online-11/>

Our three churches are now working Beyond Bronze! We are each aiming to gain the Eco Church Silver award sometime in 2025. The team wide Green Team meets regularly to work through the criteria, to identify and consider what is needed to enable all three churches progress to the next award. Read on to see what we have been doing, how to join us and the plans for the next few months.





## 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 is 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](mailto:emeredith@ctpa.org.uk). You can see from our last meeting we are all having fun but would be good to have a few more faces on the screen!

## GREEN UPDATES

### THIS YEAR'S MAY FAIR & SUNDAY BOOK SALE

#### A FABULOUS TIME FOR RECYCLING BOOKS, CDS, TOYS, BOTTLES AND UNWANTED GIFTS



The weather was kind, donations flooded in, volunteers were out in force and so many local people came to support us. Here are some great pictures of the day. Shoppers told us how delighted they were to take away our preloved books and toys and all our winners on the tombola seemed very satisfied. (Of course there were cakes and plants and other non-recycled things but this newsletter celebrates all things green...)



The total raised has still to be finalised but we are hoping to be able to give Richmond Soup Kitchen a sizable donation of more than £3000 based on recycling! This will fund over 1000 meals for those in need in our community.

AND when we were selling the left over books on Sunday a British Heart Foundation shop manager offered to take away anything we had left. So three days after the fair the books were collected and are now being recycled again at the BHF shop in Streatham – could we be more green! Check out their shop which also sells DVDs, CDs, vinyls and cassettes.

<https://www.bhf.org.uk/what-we-do/find-bhf-near-you/2014/11/24/21/53/streatham-books-and-music-shop>



## GLOBAL RECYCLING DAY 18<sup>th</sup> March



Check out our contribution to Global Recycling Day. We collected over 120 pairs of glasses and sunglasses an increase of 20% from last year!!! We have already sent 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.

Keep savings those glasses as we will repeat again next Spring.

## LITTER PICK Our contribution to Earth Day 2025



Thank you to the team of litter pickers who cleared the church yard and surrounding paths. It is always amazing how much rubbish we can collect in just 30 minutes and the things we find – including umbrellas, a suitcase and several odd socks!

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!

We will be having another litter pick in the churchyard after the 9.30 Sunday service at St Mary's on 21<sup>st</sup> September as part of our commitment to World Clean Up Day which is celebrated on the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month.



## NO MOW MAY

We supported this again this year and hope you all love the rewilding areas which look so beautiful.

No Mow May is Plantlife's annual campaign urging everyone to pack away the lawnmower, let wildflowers grow freely and help nature. No area is too small! Even the smallest wild patch can provide vital food needed by bees and butterflies, connecting us with nature and giving nature the best start to summer.

Approximately 97% of flower-rich meadows have been lost since the 1930s, and with them, vital food and habitat needed by wildlife. Leaving some longer grass and wildflowers helps to tackle pollution, benefits wildlife and can even lock away carbon below the ground.





## KEW ECO FAIR



The Kew EcoFair 2023 back in March was a huge success. It was officially opened by the broadcaster Jeremy Vine who arrived on his penny farthing bike! There were free bike checks on offer, a second-hand clothes sale, ethical shopping as well as the Repair Café.

Several of our Green Team members – Jutta, Bella, Shirley and Jo attended – some met for an ethical coffee and cake and Jutta had her bike checked over!



## WHAT'S NEW.....

### BEETLE DRIVE

**Save the Date: Beetle Drive – Friday 27 June, St Matthias Church**



As part of our contribution to the Big Green Week in June we will be raising money for one of the amazing aims of EcoChurch to “twin a toilet”. We would like to do this for each of the three churches within RTM. <https://toilettwinning.org> is a charity that offers the opportunity to twin a toilet and funds toilet building projects in communities whilst also helping families to build their own basic toilet, access clean water and learn about hygiene.

To help raise funds for this, we are holding a Beetle Drive at St Matthias on Friday 27 June, 7-9pm. Please put the date in your diary. All the family welcome. Tickets from Emma - [emeredit@ctpa.org.uk](mailto:emeredit@ctpa.org.uk) and the price includes a Ploughman's Supper. Bring your own drinks and some change for the amazing raffle and we will aim to TWIN all our toilets!

## ZERO WASTE WEEK 1-5 September

**So what will the Green Team come up with this year??**

We have had collections of glasses/sunglasses, bras and last year an incredible effort in collecting material, cottons, wool and sewing machines. So this year's Zero Waste Project will be unwanted and even out of circulation foreign and British currency. We all have coins and notes lurking in the back of drawers, in envelopes beneath your passports, in a spare purse and so on. Will we be going back to China? Do I need those old Lira.....! Probably not so let's have a clear out and bring all our unwanted and outdated currency to church the first week of September. We will then donate the collection to Oxfam whose aim is to reduce poverty around the world.



Did you know there is an estimated £2.7bn worth of unused foreign currency lying around in the UK – let's find as much of it as we can and support a very worthwhile charity in the meantime.

RTM Green Team Fundraiser  
in aid of ToiletTwinning.org



**Friday 27 June 7-9pm**  
**@St Matthias Church**  
**Great fun for all ages**

£10 for adults and £5 for kids  
Ploughman's Supper included BYOB

**Raffle**

Book your tickets with Emma  
[emeredit@ctpa.org.uk](mailto:emeredit@ctpa.org.uk)



## GREEN KITCHENS????

Jutta is making the most amazing hand crocheted 'scrubbies'. These can replace your synthetic sponges and they last for much much longer. Jutta will make in any colour to suit your kitchen décor and all the money raised from this very green initiative will be put towards the Piano Fund. What could be better helping the environment and the church music life. (Editor's note: I have one and it really works even on burnt fondue pans...)

## REFLECTIVE WALKS

Have you tried the Reflective Walks held every month and led by Anne from St Matthias? They began as part of Wild Church at St Matthias and are now very much a Team event.

The dates for the rest of this year's walks are: **Friday 6<sup>th</sup> June, Friday 11<sup>th</sup> July, Friday 8<sup>th</sup> August, Fri 5<sup>th</sup> Sept, Fri 3<sup>rd</sup> Oct, and Fri 7<sup>th</sup> November.** All walks focus on the beauty of Creation and the positive health benefits of being out in nature, as well as companionship and of course a very nice coffee or lunch at the end of each walk. Each walk is gentle and lasts about an hour and half (depending on where the walk is), usually meeting at 10am, although the May walk began



at dawn so that walkers could enjoy the sounds of the dawn chorus. The walks reflect something of the Church's year, Saints' days, seasons etc. If anyone would like to come along and hasn't joined a walk before they should email Anne [anne.crawford@richmondteamministry.org](mailto:anne.crawford@richmondteamministry.org) for details of the meeting place and confirmation of time.

As Anne says - *We are just reflecting on the healing power of nature and the inspiration for art, music and poetry, let alone prayer, which our landscape offers. We truly are very lucky to live here and be able to find all this on our doorstep.*



## MORE GREEN DATES

20<sup>th</sup> June Clean Air Day – **RTM Action:** Walk to Church Sunday 22 June

1<sup>st</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> September Zero Waste week – **RTM Action:** old and foreign coin collection

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

4<sup>th</sup> 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.....

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

## 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)

## NEW AT TOWNMEAD REUSE AND RECYCLING CENTRE



Residents can now donate unwanted household items at the new reuse drop-off area at Townmead Road Reuse and Recycling Centre. Instead of throwing things away, pass them on to others in the community who need them. The new, clearly marked drop-off point makes it easy to give your items a new home and avoid waste. The centre is currently accepting certain items in good condition such as laptops, furniture, baby items, and bicycles. Donated items will be given to local community groups and initiatives that will redistribute them back into the community.

**WARNING** - The new reuse area is only available for visitors to drop off reusable items, to help avoid these being disposed of with general waste. Items left here cannot be searched through or taken by other visitors! However check out the next article on Freecycle where you can have other folks' reusables!

## RICHMOND FREECYCLE



The Freecycle network is made up of over 5000 local town groups with over 11 million members around the world. It's a grassroots and entirely non-profit movement of people who are giving away (and getting) stuff for free and more importantly keeping good stuff out of landfills. Membership is free. You sign up at [www.freecycle.org](http://www.freecycle.org) and join your local town group (which is Richmond) you then post things you want to give away (or indeed to receive), other members reply and you arrange pick up details (usually kerb side so you don't even have to meet the other person) – just like that you have saved something going to landfill!



It all started in Arizona in 2003 and is increasing in members every day. It is really lovely when someone collects something they really want, I have had people taking things because they need spare parts to fix something else (toaster), just one more to make up a set (kitchen stool), wanting to try something before they invest in new items (golf clubs) or just because – see large green blow up sofa ....

## 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](mailto: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.