



## Richmond Team Ministry **GREENTIPS**

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

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Welcome to our Autumn edition of the Quarterly GreenTips newsletter. As ever we have really enjoyed putting this edition together and hope you enjoy reading it. 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 Autumn edition of year two brings news of our recent GREEN events this year, all our plans for the rest of the year and a feature on the Twickenham Repair Café.

### **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. Every month more churches sign up and there are lots of fabulous activities offered. We have included some info about a fantastic EcoChurch event nearby in Southall celebrating Harvest.



#### *For the Love of Harvest*

Celebrate the bounty of autumn at this vibrant festival, where food, health, and ecosystems come together. Enjoy picking and tasting delicious seasonal produce while learning about the vital connections between growing food and nurturing a healthy planet – come savour the season with us.

Register here -  
[www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/for-the-love-of-harvest-tickets-1234519383709?aff=oddtcreator](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/for-the-love-of-harvest-tickets-1234519383709?aff=oddtcreator)



Our three churches are each aiming to gain the Eco Church Silver award hopefully by the end of 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. And hold the date for our exciting session with the EcoChurch Church Relations Manager – Helen Stephens - who will be coming to talk to us at St Mary's, very aptly in the season of Creationtide, on 7<sup>th</sup> September before Evensong.



## 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 [emeredit@ctpa.org.uk](mailto:emeredit@ctpa.org.uk). We would love to add a few more faces to this Rogues Gallery!

## GREEN UPDATES FROM RTM

### WALK TO CHURCH SUNDAY – 22 June

Did you remember to walk (or cycle or bus) to church on the 22 June as a way of recognising Clean Air Day?

Richmond is one of the greenest boroughs in London with an ever-expanding cycling network and sustainable public transport system. However, Richmond has the highest car ownership in the whole of London. It is estimated 2/3<sup>rd</sup> of all journeys in London could be undertaken in less than 20 minutes on foot or by bike!! There are 460000 journeys made by car every day in Richmond – so we could do over 300000 of those by bike or by foot – not only improving air quality but improving our own health through physical activity and saving money at the same time.

Editor - Ok I know this picture is not of me on the way to church but the scenery is very lovely and I do bike to church every Sunday!



## THE FACULTY FOR THE NEW BELLS AT ST MARY'S

The bellringers at St Mary's have been working on a project for many years to improve the St Mary's ring of eight bells and finally the Faculty (which gives permission for the project) has been received! How is this **GREEN** you might be asking? Well, our largest bell, weighing almost a ton, will be melted down and recast as part of the new ring of bells. Ultimate up-cycling and zero waste! Work on the project will now have to begin in earnest to fundraise all the money required with an aim of completing the work within two years.

## SCRUBBIES SUPPORT our STEINWAY!

Jutta has been crocheting eco-friendly dishwashing 'scrubbies', and Phili, her daughter who runs "Naked Larder", a plastic and packaging-free grocery business based in Herne Hill, South London, has been selling them through her shop. It is a perfect partnership, as these reusable cotton 'scrubbies' are a sustainable alternative to plastic sponges and last much longer. Thanks to both of their hard work, they raised an impressive £142 for the Steinway Model D!





To learn more about "Naked Larder", please visit [www.nakedlarder.co.uk](http://www.nakedlarder.co.uk). It makes very interesting reading! Naked Larder offers communities a different, ethical, sustainable way to shop. They buy dry goods and eco-friendly cleaning products in bulk to minimise packaging and reduce cost. Customers place an order online, then collect their orders using their own reusable containers.

If you know anyone near Herne Hill - or in Sidmouth, Devon, where there's a second branch - please help to spread the word about this ethical and environmentally conscious shopping option.

**And Jutta can still crochet you a 'scrubbie' – please contact her direct to place an order. These can replace your synthetic sponges and they last for much much longer. Jutta will make in any colour to suit your kitchen décor.**

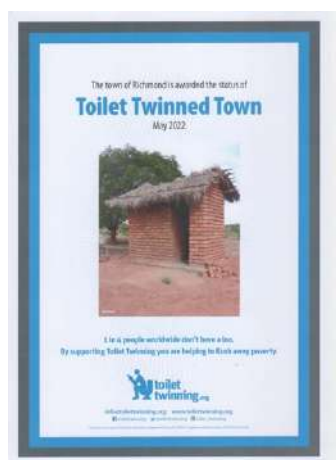
## BEETLE DRIVE – TOILETS GALORE!!!!

The Beetle Drive on 27 June was extremely successful, as well as being a lot of fun! Huge thanks to Anne and Sally for hosting us so well at St Matthias, and to all those who helped on the night.

**TOILET  
TWINNING**

We are delighted to say that we raised £370! This fantastic total means we will be able to twin two toilets for each church in RTM, helping to fund projects in a community that helps families to build their own basic toilet, access clean water and learn about hygiene. <https://toilettwinning.org>

We look forward to proudly displaying our Twinning certificates like this one awarded to Richmond (North Yorks!) as a Toilet Twinned Town.



## CLIMATE AND NATURE STRATEGY

**One of our Green Team members attended the launch of the LBRUT Climate and Nature Strategy in July. The Council has set a target for the council to be carbon neutral by 20230 and the Borough to be net zero by 2043 – seven years ahead of the national target!**

The Richmond Climate and Nature Strategy has identified five focus areas which will drive the Council's work to reduce carbon emissions across the borough, support residents and communities to take action on climate change and prepare for a changing climate. These focus areas are:

- Buildings – reducing carbon emissions from council buildings
- Travel and air – increasing sustainable travel and reducing air pollution
- Nature – protecting and enhancing biodiversity and green spaces
- Resources – moving to a zero-waste economy
- Resilience – preparing for a changing climate

Here is the link to the full strategy

[https://www.richmond.gov.uk/media/n32fwhws/richmond\\_climate\\_nature\\_strategy\\_2025\\_2030.pdf](https://www.richmond.gov.uk/media/n32fwhws/richmond_climate_nature_strategy_2025_2030.pdf)

LBRUT has also produced a Resident's Action Pack which has some brilliant ideas about what we can all do to reduce our impact on climate change.

[https://www.richmond.gov.uk/media/wcphymxs/residents\\_action\\_pack\\_2023.pdf](https://www.richmond.gov.uk/media/wcphymxs/residents_action_pack_2023.pdf)





## WHAT'S NEW.... ZERO WASTE WEEK 1st-5th September

**Leftover foreign currency, out of circulation coins from here, there and everywhere...**

How will RTM support this? 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 two weeks of September. We will then donate the collection to Oxfam whose aim is to reduce poverty around the world.

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.

## CREATIONTIDE – 7th SEPTEMBER (Please check the RTM Team e-Newsletter for final details)

Join us for a fascinating talk by Helen Stephens, the Church Relations Manager from A Rocha UK. As you all know Eco Church is an A Rocha UK programme and Helen will talk to us about what we can achieve locally as well as what we can all achieve as part of the UK wide programme in caring for God's beautiful world. Helen will be talking at St Maray's on Sunday 7th September, which marks the start of Creationtide. Creationtide is the period in the church calendar from 1st September to 4<sup>th</sup> October which is dedicated to God as Creator and Sustainer of all life. All the RTM congregation are invited to come along and her session will be followed by a Creationtide-themed Evensong.

## CHURCHYARD LITTER PICK 21st September

The 20<sup>th</sup> of September is World Clean-up Day – this is a Global event supported by the UN. Join us for a litter pick on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> September after the 9.30 service. We have registered our event with World Clean Up Day – do join us. Equipment will be supplied as well as coffee and biscuits ☺.



## MORE GREEN DATES

4<sup>th</sup> October – No Disposable 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)



Light bulbs and fluorescent tubes for example at any B&Q store as well as Townmead Road Waste and Recycling centre and recycle your plastic flowerpots and plastic trays at Squires Garden Centre in Twickenham, Sixth Cross Rd, TW2 5PA.

## LOCAL UPDATES

### REPAIR CAFÉ Twickenham

Not sure about you but I LOVE watching the Repair Shop on TV. Did you know we have our very own local Repair service called the Twickenham Repair Café. The group has just completed its 3000<sup>th</sup> repair.

The group offer their services monthly at St Margarets Catholic Church on the third Saturday of the month. Volunteers are on hand to help repair your loved but broken items. There are over 30 wonderful repairers who can help with any of the following:

- Clothes and textiles
- Household and garden electrical
- Electronics and radios
- Bikes, adults and kids
- Ceramics
- Computer hardware (and software advice)
- Games consoles
- Clocks and watches
- Toys
- Upholstery and furniture
- Woodwork
- Tool and knife sharpening



The service is free but donations are of course always welcome. Check out their website for more info including pictures of some the repairs they have completed - coffee grinders, clocks and even light sabres..... check out the before and after fairy! And if you take something there for repair do let us know!

<https://www.twickenhamrepaircafe.org/>

## OVER TO YOU...

We hope you have enjoyed our latest Green Tips newsletter. Did you try Freecycle after we talked about it in our last newsletter? Any brilliant recycling stories or even recycling disasters?

If you have any ideas do please get in touch via the Parish Office, or email Emma at [emereditth@ctpa.org.uk](mailto:emereditth@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 is my latest recycling project – chair from a hotel that was closing and left over fabric from curtains. Love the new look!

