Volume 4 | Issue 1
Winter 2026

Richmond Team Ministry
GREENTIPS

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

Welcome to the Winter 2026 edition of the GreenTips newsletter. As we move into the winter and enjoy the wonderful run up to Christmas we continue to share the good news about RTM's care for God's world in our worship and living, how we care for our buildings and land and how we engage with local communities and global campaigns to enhance our world.

GreenTips, now into it fourth year, encourages us to consider and reflect upon our personal lifestyles to ensure we are doing all we can to care for our planet. This edition brings us news of a film night focussing upon climate change at St Mary Magdalene's as well as a Stir Up Sunday Christmas Pudding recipe from our lovely new Curate Anne.

A Rocha – EcoChurch Awards

RTM is Going for Gold

As you know we are delighted that all three churches have recently achieved the Eco Church Silver Award! We hope you have seen the posters in all the churches?

We had a lovely letter of congratulations from Bishop Martin, Bishop of Kingston, and also Lead Environment Bishop for Southwark. He wrote:

"'At a time when climate change and biodiversity loss are pressing global crises, your work is hugely significant. Your efforts make a difference not only in your local community but also in the wider movement for climate justice. As the Church, we must lead by example, advocate for justice and act out Christ's call to love our global neighbours by working to see a liveable future for all his people.

Your commitment is also a part of the wider picture to reach Eco Diocese Silver by 2027 and Net Zero Carbon by 2035. I encourage you to continue on your own Eco Church journey, as well as to share your experience with others in your local area. The more people we can inspire to act, the greater the impact we can have. Your insights and experience in having journeyed to silver could be invaluable in mobilising others just beginning this journey."

However we are not resting on our laurels – green though they are – we are now working towards the Gold standard! This newsletter highlights some of the work we are doing but there are many other activities going on in the background. If you would like to know more and perhaps help in this work please consider joining the Green Team,

The group meets around three times a year and we keep in contact in between meetings by email. If anyone would like to join the RTM Green Team, please contact Emma (emeredith@ctpa.org.uk).



A ROCHA – OUR LIFESTYLE

We worship a God who loves the earth he created and calls us to care for it. While it's important to take action together as a church, we also have an individual responsibility to take action in our daily lives so that we tread lightly on the earth and use our voices to speak up for nature. Individuals and households need to integrate creation care into daily lives out of integrity, as an act of worship and obedience to God.

A Rocha encourages us all to consider what we can do not just as a church and has a number of useful free publications we can all access on its website such as You and Your Food, Fairtrade (see also our recipe section below) as well as Food Co-operatives. This link takes you to a number of its useful lifestyle resources:
https://ecochurch.arocha.org.uk/resources/lifestyle/

UPDATE - The Return of Tower Mustard

You will recall Amanda Adams, from St Mary's, provided us all with an overview of the Return of Tower Mustard project which is a pioneering urban conservation initiative aimed at bringing back one of London's rarest native plants, Tower Mustard (Turritis glabra), which has almost disappeared from the capital due to habitat loss and changes in land use.

Amanda is pleased to update us as more than 1000 Tower Mustard plants have been successfully planted out by volunteers. These Mighty Mustard Volunteers even made the news on the BBC – check out the link for a full update:
https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c8ly070p37d4o

RECENT GREEN ACTIVITIES

ZERO WASTE WEEK



This Zero Wate Week collection was really successful. Plenty of 'as new' socks, hats and gloves have been collected. These had been earmarked for the guests at Richmond Soup Kitchen to support them through the colder winter months. Thank you all so very much for your donations!

At St Mary Magdalene, the welcomers noticed that those using the food box at the back of church have also helped themselves to the donations of socks, hats and gloves – we were pleased the recycling was instantaneous!





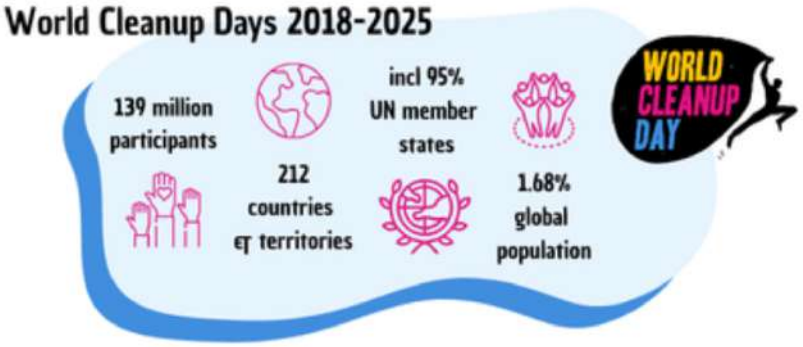


WORLD CLEAN UP DAY: 20 SEPTEMBER

It doesn't seem to matter how often we do a clean up of the churchyard we always collect a huge number of bags of rubbish and items that have been fly tipped.

If you do any local clean ups you can use the Love Clean Streets App which links to your local authority – report your clean up, the number of bags and the app identifies your location and reports directly to your local authority who will come and clear the bags within 5 working days. This also works for fly tipping and pot holes!!

Do send us photos of your litter picks.



CHRISTIAN AID RIVER WALK: 26 SEPTEMBER

A Walk for creation. A Walk for climate justice. A Walk for hope. A team from across all three churches joined the scenic Thames Walk in support of Christian Aid and really enjoyed a day of community, fellowship and action for a fairer, greener world – and it has to be said a lot of cake enroute!

The walk started at St Matthias at 11am with a beautiful blessing from Rev'd Anne Crawford. We walked to St Richard's in Ham for cake then continued on the 8.5mile route to St Anne's in Kew stopping at Twickenham Bridge for cake and finishing on Kew Green for more cake! Save the date for 2027 – September 25th!





INTERNATIONAL E-WASTE DAY: 14 OCTOBER

International E-Waste Day 2026 turned the spotlight on **Fast Tech:** the small and inexpensive electronic products that have become part of everyday life.

We challenged our congregations to check out all Fast Tech and to recycle it – to sort out the 'drawer of doom' and drop those cables and the like at one of the Pink Bins across Richmond. In case you are still at the sorting stage here is the link to find your Pink Bin – pop your postcode into this link to find your nearest one:

https://recycleyourelectricals.org.uk/how-to-recycle-electronics/what-electronics-can-be-recycled/



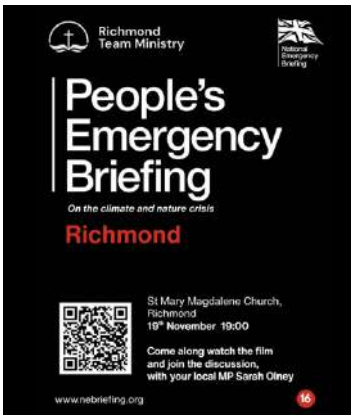
BIRD BOXES AND HEDGEHOG HOMES

St Mary Magdalene, inspired by St John the Divine and St Matthias churches, has extended the wildlife accommodation on offer in the churchyard. We asked for help from Sheddington https://sheddington.org/, which is an amazing charity in Teddington focussed on making and mending. They made both the bird boxes and the hedgehog hostel from recycled wood and are happy to take more orders if anyone would like them in their own gardens. What a great Christmas present that would be.



UPCOMING EVENTS

CLIMATE CHANGE FILM AND DEBATE



Climate Change - People's Emergency Briefing Film, will be shown on Thursday 19th November 7pm at St Mary Magdalene and will be followed by a panel discussion with Sarah Olney MP.

This is a free but ticketed event, so please book your free ticket via this link as soon as possible.
https://www.tickettailor.com/.../richmondteammini.../2448476

This eye-opening 50-minute film brings together nine leading UK scientists and experts discussing the latest evidence and why it matters. They focus on extreme weather, food security, health and the cost of living.

After the film, there will be an open panel discussion about what it means for our community, the Christian response and what we can do locally. The film is appropriate for ages 16 and above. Bring a friend, neighbour or family member: everyone is welcome.

REFLECTIVE WALKS

Rev'd Anne Crawford has restarted the Reflective walks. Please do contact her if you would like to be on the mailing list to her about these first hand (anne.crawford@richmondteamministry.org).



The walks began as part of Wild Church at St Matthias and are now very much a Team event. All walks focus on the beauty of Creation, 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 and usually reflect something of the Church's year or the Saints' days.

GREEN DATES FOR THE REST OF 2026

1 November World Vegan Day
Let's really try hard to be vegan for the day – share your recipes

27 November Buy Nothing Day
Not as easy as it sounds…..especially in the run up to Christmas

GREEN DATES FOR 2027

(There are new posters in all three churches advertising our events)

1– 31 January: Veganuary
Maybe try vegan meals 2 days per week this month?

18 March: Global Recycling Day
Glasses Recycling project

27 March: Earth Hour
Turn off all the lights for an hour – our churches will

22 April: Earth Day
Litter pick at SMM 18 April

1- 31 May: No Mow May
SMM Churchyard will be left to grow

8 May: May Fair around the church and on the Green
Recycle books, unwanted bottles and gifts for charity

5 – 13 June: Big Green Week/Churches Count on Nature
Churchyard Nature Count

19 June: Clean Air Day
Walk to church Sunday 20 June

6 - 12 September: Zero Waste Week
Another collection campaign will be announced

20 September: World Clean Up Day
Litter pick at SMM 19 September

22 September: World Car Free Day
Walk to church Sunday 19 September

25 September: Christian Aid River Walk
Let's get an RTM team walking

14 October: International E-waste Day
To be announced



1 November: World Vegan Day
Let's exchange some great recipes

26 November: Buy Nothing Day
Not as easy as it sounds…..

THE PRESENT GAME



Every Christmas we buy and wrap lots of presents for lots of people, not so green really, lots of gifts that perhaps are not needed and lots of wrapping paper …..

Here is one reader's simple plan for a present game that is fun and pretty green at the same time.

You need just one present per person placed in a Christmas bag which you can recycle year on year. Place gifts of all sizes in bags of all sizes to avoid people guessing. The presents should have a theme i.e. all from a charity shop, all costing less than £2, all books or whatever works for your group. The host can provide all the gifts or everyone can bring one. Make sure they all know the theme and the price point!

On a sheet of paper write down numbers for as many participants as you have. Cut the numbers up, fold and put in a bowl. Everyone draws a number. The person with number one chooses a present, the person with number two can 'steal' that present or choose a new one. If they choose to steal then number one can choose another present. Person with number three can 'steal' either number one or number two's present or select a new one and so on. The game ends when someone takes the last present. Don't get too attached to your gift!!!

SEASONAL RECIPE

Every quarter we have been sharing a recipe featuring seasonal produce. ***Seasonal produce*** is more nutritious, tastier and cost-effective while also being better for the environment. Seasonal produce is typically harvested at peak ripeness, has a shorter travel time, and doesn't require artificial ripening resulting in higher nutrient content, better flavour, and lower costs. Supporting seasonal food also reduces the carbon footprint from long-distance transportation whilst supporting local farmers.

However for this edition, Revd Anne O'Neil, our new curate, has provided a Christmas Pudding recipe. Making our own pudding reduces our plastic use as we can make in a glass dish and we can choose Fair Trade ingredients which are fairly traded and ethically sourced. Her recipe slips a nice little bit of theology into your Christmas pudding! Do share your photos of making the pudding.



Stir Up Sunday Pudding

Stir-up Sunday is traditionally when we make Christmas puddings. It's name comes from the prayer used to get us ready for the season to come...
"Stir up, we beseech thee, O Lord, the wills of thy faithful people..."

The pudding has 13 ingredients, one for Jesus and each of his disciples. The holly on top represents the crown of thorns, and if you put a coin in the middle (careful you don't bite it) - that's the treasure of the kingdom of God: the true gift of Christmas.
Enjoy!

INGREDIENTS:

- 225g dried fruits (raisins, currants, sultanas
- 100g chopped nuts (optional)
- 100g dark brown sugar
- 100g breadcrumbs
- 100g self-raising flour
- 1 tsp mixed spice
- 1 tsp cinnamon
- 100g suet or butter
- 2 large eggs
- 100ml dark stout or brandy
- Zest of 1 orange and 1 lemon

INSTRUCTIONS:

- Mix Dry Ingredients: fruits, nuts, sugar, crumbs, flour, spices, and suet.
- Add the Wet things: Stir in eggs, stout/brandy, and citrus zest
- Take turns to stir 13 times East to West as you think of the Wise Men!
- Grease the basin and fill with the mixture. Cover with paper and foil.
- Steam: Place in a pot with water halfway up the basin. Steam for 5–6 hours, topping water as needed.
- Store: Cool, wrap, and store in a cool place.
- Reheat: Steam for 2 hours before serving.
- Eat with custard, ice cream, or anything you like!

Richmond Team Ministry



HOW DO I RECYCLE MORE?

We found this useful pdf which explains what goes into each of our bins (for those who live in the Borough of Richmond).

New items that can be recycled since our last update are squeezy plastic and metal tubes such as toothpaste or tomato paste and tetrapaks such as those that contain milk and fruit juice.

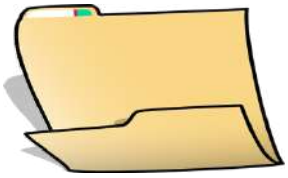
https://www.richmond.gov.uk/media/nkpju42g/recycling_flyer.pdf



GREEN RESOURCES

Finally, here is a useful directory of the links we have talked about in past editions enabling easy access to help us make more sustainable and greener decisions.

We will continue to add any links we refer to in each edition of GreenTips and we hope you find this a helpful addition to our regular newsletter. If you have any suggestions about other links we might include do get in touch.



RECYCLING/REPAIRING OR BORROWING

www.richmond.gov.uk/where_to_recycle_your_items

www.recyclenow.com/recycle-an-item

https://participate.libraryofthings.co.uk/twickenham

www.twickenhamrepaircafe.org/

WILDLIFE

www.cotswoldwildlifepark.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/Tin-can-bug-hotel.pdf

https://arocha.org.uk/wild-christian/

https://arocha.org.uk/what-we-do/target-25/

CLIMATE FOOTPRINT

https://www.climatehero.org/en

https://footprint.wwf.org.uk/

GREEN AND ETHICAL BANKING

https://bank.green/

https://justmoney.org.uk

https://greenchristian.org.uk/how-green-is-your-money/

LIFESTYLE CHOICES

https://ecochurch.arocha.org.uk/resources/lifestyle/

THE GREEN TEAM

Go on you know you want to!! If this newsletter inspires you, please do think about joining our small but perfectly formed team. We welcome representatives from all three churches to help with our plans and contribute new ideas and help us work towards that GOLD award. We meet both in person but also online - very green as no transport is required. If you would like to talk about joining us for one off projects or joining the Green Team, please contact Emma Meredith emeredith@ctpa.org.uk.

OVER TO YOU.....

We hope you have enjoyed our latest GreenTips newsletter. If you have any ideas please get in touch via the Parish Office, or email Emma at emeredith@ctpa.org.uk

Please send us in your pics of stirring those puddings and, if you can attend, your thoughts on the Climate Change film.

This newsletter thrives on the input of our congregation.

Thank you.

