



MAY ECO TIP

Looking after our planet - a thought from the Eco-Team

Dear friends,

There are different ways we can enjoy and appreciate God's creation: walking/exploring, observing/monitoring, tasting/smelling/studying it... – as well as different ways of caring for nature and taking responsibility for its welfare. This month we are offering thoughts on how we manage land or property that is under our direct control: our gardens, allotments, ponds, small woodlands – and of course the land around our church and adjacent to the Wheelhouse.

Some practical ideas:

- "NO MOW MAY": let wildflowers blossom and supply nectar and pollen to insects in your garden! Avoid putting fertilizer and weedkiller on your lawn! (Not just in May)
- You could leave an area completely wild till autumn and then set up some heaps of twigs or leaves for hibernating animals during the winter.
- A thick half-buried decaying log will make a marvellous habitat for a variety of invertebrates!
- Create a little wildlife pond (without fish – they eat the insect larvae and tadpoles!): <https://freshwaterhabitats.org.uk/advice-resources/garden-pond-advice-hub/>
- It is also quite fascinating - and helpful for important research - to participate in "citizen science" by joining a seasonal monitoring campaign like a pollinator or bird count. Here are some useful websites of organisations that run such campaigns:

Butterfly Conservation Trust:

<https://butterfly-conservation.org/butterflies/recording-and-monitoring>

Caring for God's acre:

<https://www.caringforgodsacre.org.uk/churches-count-on-nature-faqs/>

UK Pollinator Monitoring Scheme:

<https://ukpoms.org.uk/>

Hopefully these suggestions inspire you to try something new. These activities are not just valuable contributions to preserve our native wildlife – they can also be great fun and introduce us into fascinating new areas of interest! Enjoy God's creation with all its colours, sounds and smells in May - I am looking forward to observing my honeybees in action..



ECO TIPS - JULY

Let's think about plastic pollution this month and what your and my role can be in ending it!

“*Plastic Free July*® is a global movement that helps millions of people be part of the solution to plastic pollution – so we can have cleaner streets, oceans, and beautiful communities. Will you be part of Plastic Free July by choosing to refuse single-use plastics?” (quoted from: www.plasticfreejuly.org)

In March 2022 Heads of State, Ministers of environment and other representatives from UN Member States endorsed a historic resolution at the UN Environment Assembly (UNEA-5) in Nairobi to **End Plastic Pollution** and forge an international legally binding agreement **by 2024**. The resolution addresses the full lifecycle of plastic, including its production, design and disposal.”

Plastics have various attractive properties: being cheap, light, easy to mass-produce and having many applications – BUT: It is scary how waste plastics are now being found en masse in our rivers and oceans, road verges and countryside - and even in our food as microplastics!

- Here are some ideas how to reduce plastic pollution:
- Buy loose products without plastic packaging wherever you can – for example fruit and veg;
- Avoid buying drinks in plastic bottles;
- Avoid cosmetic products that contain plastic microbeads;
- Buy new clothes only made of natural fibres. Every time synthetic fibres get washed they release microfibres into the waste water;
- Reuse plastic items if you have already bought them (ice cream containers, PET bottles, shopping bags etc.);
- Consider investing in durable products rather than buying cheaper plastic items with a shorter life span;
- Help at the village litter pick;
- Pray and campaign for an effective international agreement that will **end plastic pollution!**

Lots of homework for our “*Plastic Free July*”! May God help us...



August Eco Tip

This month we have invited Cheri to share information about the recently launched Repair Café at St. Martin's – a great initiative worth supporting by volunteering or bringing an item for repair!

Here are her words:



Horsley Repair Cafe

There was huge excitement (and a bit of trepidation!) in the air on 6th July 2024 as Horsley opened its' first Repair Café. The aim of this new venture for the Horsleys is to repair broken items instead of sending them to landfill.

There was a steady stream of people visiting us with items repaired including kettles, Hetty the Hoover, a high level lopper, garden fork, earphones, a suitcase, an old sewing machine, a silk dressing gown, a Karcher pressure washer and an old pocket watch. Quite a selection!



When you arrive, we will assess your item to see if we can repair it. If so, you and your item are then assigned to a repairer. We can't promise to repair everything but our enthusiastic team will try! The service is free though we do need to meet the costs of running the Café, so donations are encouraged. We are always looking for volunteers to help with repairs, catering, admin, welcome etc, so if you want to get involved please email horsleyrepaircafe@gmail.com.

And finally, while your item is being repaired, you can enjoy tea or coffee with scrumptious home-made cakes so please bring your broken items to the Horsley Repair Café on the first Saturday of each month. Together we can do our bit to save the planet!

Cheri Griffin

Next Repair Café is in the Canterbury Rooms behind St Martin's Church
on 3rd August 2024 from 10am to 12.30



ECO CHURCH

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OCTOBER ECO TIP

The FAIRTRADE Mark is an internationally recognised certification label for products sourced from producers in lower income countries.

Fairtrade is 30 years old this year.

Fairtrade has a vision of a world in which all producers enjoy secure and sustainable livelihoods, fulfil their potential and are empowered to decide on their future. Its certification programme sets standards in the production of goods. It works with 2 million farmers and workers in more than 1,900 producer organisations, across 68 countries. Its core objectives are improving living standards, investing in communities and businesses and protecting our shared environment. They achieve this by rallying a global community of farmers and workers, supply chain partners, brands, retailers, shoppers, schools and governments to pay fair prices and uphold fair production standards and practices. Fair prices provide an immediate lifeline for farmers and workers struggling with low incomes and disadvantaged by global trade.

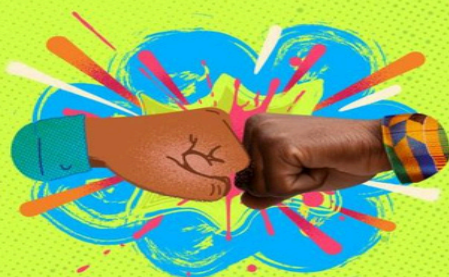
Fairtrade Foundation's theme in 2024 is " BE THE CHANGE " meaning that all of us can help be the change.

By buying products with the Fairtrade Mark you are supporting the communities of the producers: An amount of money goes toward improving their education, health care and the development of small businesses. You are also helping to end poverty and child labour.

St. Mary's is a Fairtrade Church in a Fairtrade Diocese, and you will notice that our tea, coffee and sugar are all Fairtrade products. Why not become a Fairtrade household? You may already buy fairtrade products but new ones are being added each day. Visit www.fairtrade.org.uk to find the 2024 Buying Guide.

Switch to buying Fairtrade products where possible and "BE THE CHANGE"!

BE THE



CHANGE