

# **Christ Church**

## **Environment Newsletter:**

### **Autumn 2023**



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# Introduction

## Editorial

Welcome to the second edition of the Christ Church Environment Newsletter! For anyone who hasn't yet read the Summer Newsletter, it is available on the church website and it's emailed to everyone who receives The Seed. If you want to be on the emailing list, contact us via [eco-editor-cc@tutanota.com](mailto:eco-editor-cc@tutanota.com)

This Autumn, we have lots of ways you can get involved in helping the environment, from measuring your carbon footprint to setting aside a 'wild' area of your garden. Also, find out about plans for solar panels or a heat pump in the Church Hall, read the latest update on the church gardens, and discover which fruit and veg are in season. A massive thank you to all our contributors! We hope you enjoy the Autumn 2023 Newsletter!

Amelie Dobson (co-editor)

## Surrey Wildlife Trust Community Champions Awards

On behalf of the Nutfield Tree Wardens, Trindles Road Wildlife Warriors, and Christ Church Environment Group an entry was recently submitted to the Surrey Wildlife Trust Community Champions Awards as "South Nutfield Nature Affiliation".

Although we weren't successful we were invited to the awards evening and network with the many other community nature projects from around the county which were rich and varied, ranging from monitoring water quality of the River Mole to community vegetable gardens and much, much more. It was really

encouraging to see so much enthusiasm for nature and environment amongst other communities.

Chris Fry



Vron Hamilton, Chris Fry, Kate Evans

# Eco-Church: Update on the Church Gardens

I have been monitoring the wild area of garden at Christ Church during the summer. The variety of plants is increasing and now include: teasel, common nettle, ox-eye daisy, white dead-nettle, cow parsley, phacelia, sweet rocket, broad-leaved dock, meadow brome, meadow grass, Yorkshire fog, tall fescue, common bent, creeping twitch (couch), goose grass (cleavers), creeping cinquefoil, creeping and bulbous buttercups, white clover, bitter cress, garlic mustard, herb Robert, meadow saxifrage, herb Bennet (wood avens), dandelion, cut-leaved cranesbill, broad-leaved willow herb, ground ivy and selfheal (pictured). The single bee orchid developed a good seed head.



Selfheal at Christ Church

Sue Fairclough



The new bee hotel

Look out for the bee hotel in the wildlife garden which it is hoped will be used by varieties of solitary bees. There are over 270 species of bee in Britain of which nearly 250 are solitary. The solitary bees most likely to use bee hotels are typically of the Leafcutter or Mason bee families, using leaf material or mud respectively to plug the holes whilst their offspring develop. Keep a lookout for new residents whenever you visit. Chris Fry

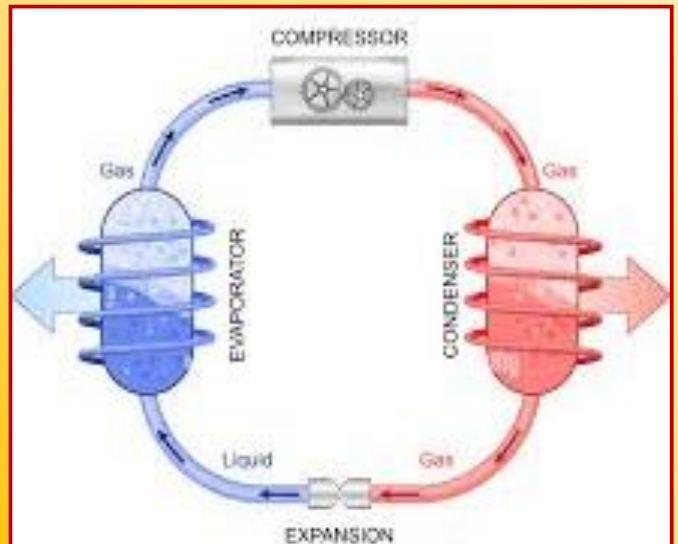
# Solar Panels vs Heat Pumps

The eco group at church has been discussing ways to reduce the church's impact on the environment. Our single biggest negative effect is our energy usage, for electricity and gas in the church buildings. There are two technologies we can use that will make a big difference: Solar Panels and Heat Pumps.



**Solar Panels** are Photovoltaic cells that convert the sun's energy into electricity which we can use directly, in our case for church or hall lighting, computers, projectors and anything else we plug in. They would be fitted to the centre roof and are often used with extra batteries to store the electricity.

VS



**Heat Pumps** use a 'heat exchanger' to remove heat from the external environment and to use that heat for hot water and central heating. They use some electricity to run, but convert roughly 3-4 times this amount of energy into heating, so are ultra efficient, and can replace gas boilers entirely.

Either of these might cost around £10,000 to install, and would take some time to 'pay back' through reduced energy bills. Because of the large investment we are starting a **consultation** with church members to find out your thoughts and opinions. Over the next 3 months there will be information on display boards in the centre and a presentation in church, as well as a questionnaire for feedback, before a report is presented to the PCC with recommendations.

# Blue Hearts in Nutfield



If you have walked along Trindles Road, you might have noticed a variety of decorated Blue Hearts on display as well as a few others elsewhere in the village. These have been placed where the owners have set aside at least a part of their garden to either grow wild, or be managed specifically with wildlife in mind.



This idea has been adopted following campaigns in Bookham and Fetcham, where residents have requested the council leave selected grass verges to be left uncut. They also use blue hearts to signify this is deliberate rather than oversight. If you don't fancy weeding quite so much remember that most weeds are native species and there will typically be a variety of insects that can benefit from them. If you would like to join us, I have a handful of blue hearts available that you can decorate with your chosen message. Chris Fry



# Food: What's in Season?

This Autumn, as we celebrate Harvest and thank God for all the food he has given us, we should keep in mind the environmental impact of our food choices. We can do this by using **LOAF** (Locally produced, Organically grown, Animal friendly, Fairly traded). By buying food that is locally made, or from the UK, we can cut down on the energy used to transport the goods and reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.

## What Should you Buy?

Autumn is a time of plenty, and there is a wide variety of fruit and vegetables available from the UK, such as:



## What Should You Plant?

There aren't very many vegetables that you can plant in the Autumn. However, you can try these:

- Radishes (Sept)
- Cabbage (Oct)
- Broad beans (Nov)
- Land cress (Sept)
- Autumn onions (Sept-Nov)
- Winter Lettuce (Sept-Nov)

# Measuring Our Carbon Footprint: Why is it important?

If you want to improve on your running skills or your ability in almost any activity, it is usual to measure where you are now, for example, I can walk round the loop of Trindles Road and Mid Street in 6 minutes, and then after a week's practice to note the time taken, and see if there is any improvement. That encourages you and develops your muscles and motivation at the same time.

Our world is using 3 times as much resources as it can bear. We need to cut down, in particular cut down the amount of carbon dioxide we are generating, which is heating up our climate to extremely dangerous levels. The Church of England have committed to being carbon neutral by 2030. The first step for us as a church and as individual members of the congregation is to measure our carbon footprint now, to get a baseline.

The World Wildlife Fund tool for measuring individual Carbon Footprints is very accessible online, and quick to do, 5 or 6 minutes should do it. If you are confident online you can also download the WWF **My Footprint App** to help you make the small changes that will help make a difference. For those who have not got the opportunity to get online, a number of the environment group are happy to do it with you after a service on a laptop.

When you begin to look at your Carbon Footprint you will see which activities use most carbon and where it would make most difference to change your habits, reducing meat and dairy consumption, looking at buying items second-hand, reducing flights for example.

In 2021 the average carbon footprint of UK respondents to the calculator was 13.7 tonnes a year. WWF-UK and 3Keel's new report *Thriving within our planetary means: reducing the UK's production and consumption footprint by 2030* (Global Footprint Report) reveals that **the UK must reduce its global footprint by three quarters to meet planetary limits.**

Where are we now? Can we do better? How do we improve? Start by measuring your [Carbon Footprint!](#) (And let us know how you are doing. Send your results to [Eco-editor-cc@tutanota.com](mailto:Eco-editor-cc@tutanota.com))

Next year we will ask you to measure it again, so we can see how we are doing as a congregation. There will be no naming and shaming, but we might congratulate those who have achieved the greatest reduction, and those who are sustaining a low level, year on year!

# Coming up this Autumn:



*Click below to measure your carbon footprint in 5 mins!*

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

*After, send us your results by emailing [eco-editor-cc@tutanota.com](mailto:eco-editor-cc@tutanota.com)*

## ***Come to a Film Evening at Christ Church at 18:00 – 20:00 on 24<sup>th</sup> September!***

The film, 'Racing Extinction', involves organisations trying to expose and prevent the cruel exploitation of threatened species for exotic foods, as well as opening people's eyes to the dangers of extinction of all life.

Everyone is welcome to attend and entrance is free (although donations to the Church's green energy funds would be gratefully accepted of course!)

There will be an opportunity to discuss the film over coffee and biscuits afterwards in the church hall.

Veronica Hamilton

*Want to help contribute to the next Newsletter?*

Please contact Amelie and Nick Dobson, or email us via [eco-editor-cc@tutanota.com](mailto:eco-editor-cc@tutanota.com)

As the months get colder, garden birds always appreciate feeding. Try this tip: cutting the top off a plastic milk carton makes a great funnel for filling bird-feeders easily.

