

*Winner of
Harvest Photo
Competition:
Chateau Nutfield
– Thelma Bartlett*

**Christ Church
Environment
Newsletter:
Winter 2023**

Editorial

This season, we've received loads of articles for a very packed newsletter! From how to dispose of E-Waste to ideas for Christmas, we have a huge range of interesting pieces on how to live more sustainably this Winter. Also, you can see the results of the carbon footprint survey we did last Autumn and learn about Creation Care, a new scheme we are looking in to doing as a church in the New Year. A massive thank you to all our contributors; we couldn't do any of this without you! Also, a big well done to all those who took part in the Harvest Photo Competition, especially Thelma Bartlett (overall winner), Pip Smith (Runner up) and Grayson (Under-16s winner) - *see photos below and on front page*

Amelie Dobson (co-editor)

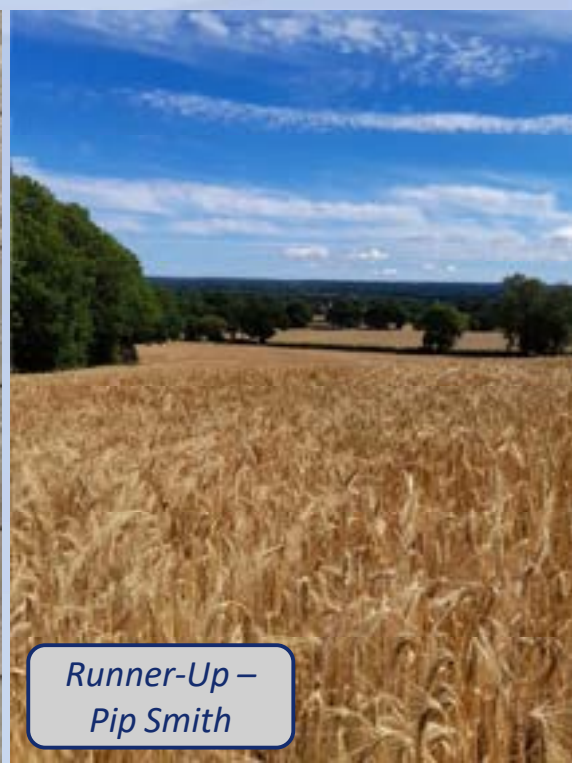
Being responsible Christians

The main message throughout the Bible regarding how we as humans relate to the environment, emphasises that we have a responsibility for sustainable stewardship of the Earth - God's creation (of which we are part). As we come once again to the season of Christmas, the focus is on the celebration of Jesus' birth and the call to cherish and responsibly care for God's creation. The idea during Christmas-time is to reflect with gratitude on the priceless gift of the creation, to seek to live in simplicity so as not to plunder the finite resources that are available to us, and to continue to nurture our consciousness of our proper place within the environment.

Revd Len Abrams



Under-16s
- Grayson



Runner-Up –
Pip Smith

E-Waste (Electrical or Electronic Waste)

– Sue Fairclough

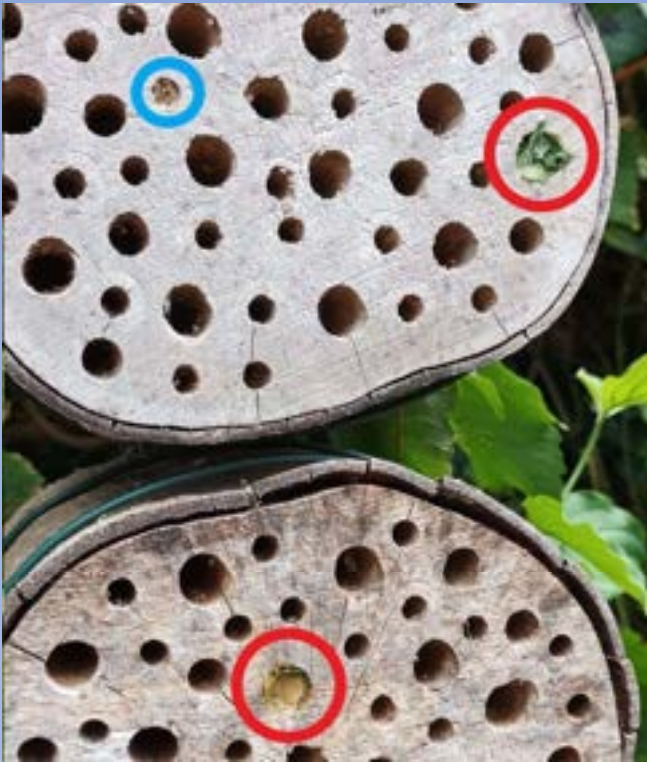
Items that have a plug, need charging, use batteries or have a picture of a crossed-out wheelie bin on them are known as Waste Electrical & Electronic Equipment (WEEE). These items must not be disposed of in a waste bin and should be recycled.

Mobile phones and other 'tech' contain a range of materials including metals, plastics and several valuable components such as silver - which can be extracted and re-used. Up to 80% of a phone is recyclable. Here's how to dispose of WEEE ethically:

- When you buy or replace a piece of technology in a shop, ask how you can recycle your old one. The retailer is legally required to help you dispose of your old device.
- If your unwanted tech is in good working condition and reasonably up-to-date, online resellers and high street shops such as Cash Converters, CeX and Currys (who collect and reuse over 60,000 tonnes of unwanted tech every year) buy WEEE, especially if you have the original box, charger and instructions. Comparison sites like Compare and Recycle can help you find the best company for you.
- Many charities accept old mobile phones and other tech, whether they are working or not. They can raise valuable funds by passing them on to recycling companies.
- Broken mobile phones can be disposed of at most Recycling Centres in the container for small electricals.

For peace of mind, remove your personal data. This reduces the risk of it being used by someone else. Independent consumer organisation Which? has information on [how to wipe an android phone or tablet](#) and [how to wipe or reset an iPad or iPhone](#).

Beautiful Bees



Update on Bee Hotel

A fortnight after it was put up by Chris Fry, the bee hotel in Christ Church's gardens had 3 new residents: two leafcutter bees and a solitary wasp! Feel free to have a look at the hibernating pupae or, take inspiration and create your own – making gardens more eco-friendly really does make a difference!

Stumpery – Chris Fry

What to do with those logs ? If you have some surplus logs or branches and a few spare feet in a semi-shaded part of your garden, consider making a 'stumpery' on which moss, lichen and fungi can thrive and provide valuable food and habitat for a wide range of invertebrates.



- Start by digging a hole about 50cm deep and wide enough for your logs.
- Stand your largest log vertically in the centre and surround with others.
- Fill the gaps with plenty of soil and pack the soil down around the stumpery with your feet to firm up.
- If you wish to, you can drill some holes in some of the logs to provide useful nurseries for solitary bees.
- As the logs gradually break down, they will provide fantastic habitat; you can be as creative as you wish.

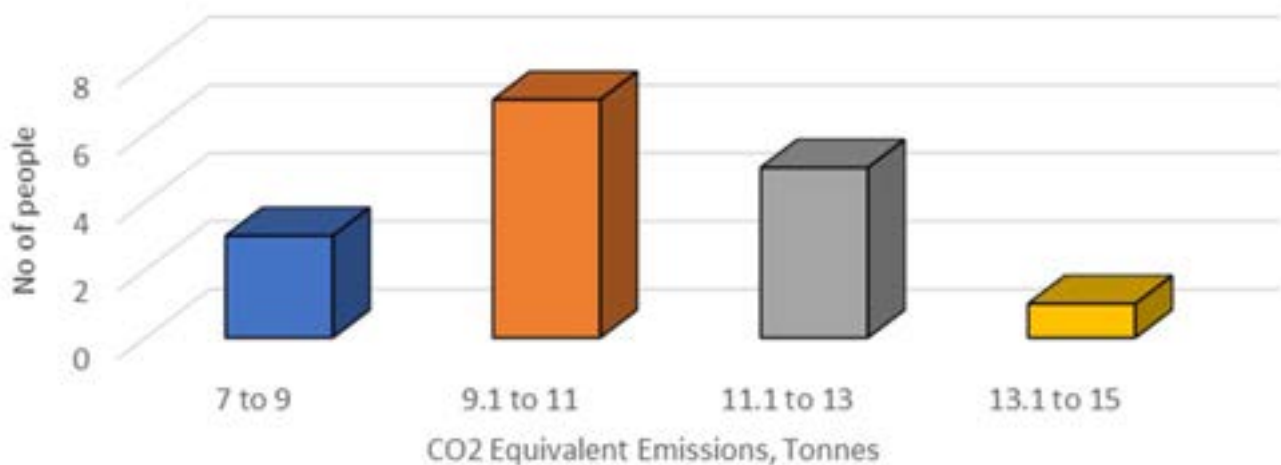
Creation Care

The Creation Care scheme is designed to help households systematically look at seven areas of their life, to see where they're doing well, and give ideas for how they can better care for God's creation

Christ Church are considering joining with the Creation Care scheme in the New Year. To see more for yourself look up <https://creationcare.org.uk>



Christ Church - Results of Carbon Footprint Survey 2023



Our average annual carbon footprint surveyed was 10.4 tonnes. The UK-wide survey showed an average of 12.3 tonnes in 2023, so we are better than average... but it is well above the global target, to keep temperatures under control, of 2.3 tonnes.

The WWF calculator is only a crude estimate and if you are interested there are many other more accurate estimators available on the web.

5 Top Tips for a Greener Christmas – Kate Evans



1. Make your own tree decorations – go for a walk, gather pinecones to paint, glitter attach ribbon and hang on the tree. Twigs can be made into stars to put at the top of the tree.
2. Wrapping Paper – make your own from brown paper, decorate using paint/ink and stamps, use recyclable paper and fabric bows, twine and paper tape.
3. Wreaths – avoid wreaths with plastic accessories and glittery decorations. Make a wreath with natural foliage, pinecones, holly and dried flowers.
4. Crackers- make your own, use recyclable papers and ties. Include a paper hat, joke and a wooden tree decoration or a compostable wrapped chocolate.
5. Reduce, Reuse and Recycle whenever you can – if you do have plastic, look after it as much as you can before throwing it away!



Do you wonder where to store your patio cushions and backrests during the winter months? If you do not have a loft, it can be a problem. Why not offer them to a neighbour who has a loft and do them a favour? Spread out over the loft floor they will enhance their thermal insulation. The reverse is also true. If you know someone local who does not have a loft and you have space, why not offer them your spare loft space?

Ken Rolaston

Vegan Christmas

Nut Roast

- Fresh rosemary
- 2 tbsp olive oil
- 3 garlic cloves, chopped finely
- 1 large onion, chopped
- 200g chestnut mushrooms,
- chopped 1 large carrot,
- grated 100-200g breadcrumbs
- 300ml veg stock
- 1 handful of chopped cranberries
- 1 handful of chopped apricots 150g of chopped mixed nuts (e.g. walnuts, pecans and hazelnuts)

Why not try a vegan Christmas this year for one of your dinners. Here's a recipe from Jackie Fenn



Photo courtesy of the Hairy Bikers

1. Heat oil and fry the onion with the garlic until soft.
2. On a low heat, add the mushrooms and some chopped rosemary until softened.
3. Stir in the carrot and dried fruit.
4. Start gradually stirring in the stock.
5. Add the nuts, more stock, and the breadcrumbs gradually. You may not need all the stock and breadcrumbs. If it looks dry add more stock, if wet, add more breadcrumbs.
6. Squish it into a greased casserole dish or baking tray. Or let the mixture cool down a little and form it into balls. I get 12 out of this recipe, which I put in a mince pie tray so they don't roll off.
7. Put rosemary sprigs on top.
8. Cook for 40-45 minutes until crisp on top.

Coming Up This Winter:

Christmas is coming - Save those stamps

With Christmas coming you are likely to receive much more mail and cards with stamps attached. I have been assured by Surrey Wildlife Trust that used stamps continue to be of value to them, helping to raise funds for all manner of wildlife conservation and education projects across the county. Spare a thought for wildlife before putting your envelopes in the recycling bin. A collection tin is at the rear of the church, or you can pass them straight to me.

Chris Fry

Petition for This Winter

If you are inspired by Chris' bee hotel and want to do more to help bees, you can sign this petition: 'Require MPs to vote on any emergency authorisations of bee-killing pesticides'. This would mean that it would be more challenging for people to use pesticides which kill bees and other important insects.

<https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/640166>

Solar Panels/Heat Pump Update

We've completed the information stage and are going to display information on these technologies on the notice boards in the Church Centre through December and January. A questionnaire for the congregation will follow in the New Year.

Film Club

After the service on the 21st January, Christ Church are hosting a film showing of 'Racing Extinction'. It's about organisations trying to expose and prevent the cruel exploitation of threatened species for exotic foods. Everyone is welcome to attend, and entrance is free (although donations to the Church's green energy funds would be gratefully accepted of course!) Afterwards there will be an opportunity to discuss the film with a light lunch.

For more information ask 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