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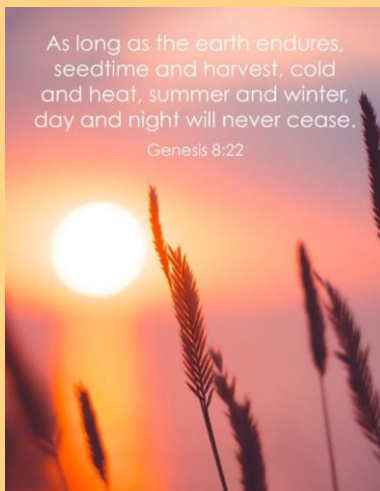
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Christ Church Environment Newsletter Autumn 2024

Editorial - AD

This Autumn, we have plenty of things for you to get involved with: our Annual Carbon Footprint Quiz, a Car-Sharing Scheme, a Church Maintenance Day, and the Film Club! You can learn how to donate locally grown food to Open Hands and enjoy a book review of 'How to Help Hedgehogs', encouraging us to make our gardens more wildlife-friendly. If you didn't get a chance to hear Helen Burnett's talk in August, you can read all about it. Thank you to everyone who contributed to the newsletter, we couldn't do it without you!

In Harmony with Creation - LA



As we enter autumn, the rhythm of the changing seasons offers a poignant reminder of the intricate balance of nature that surrounds us. The shift in colours, the cooling air, and the harvest time all point to the delicate cycles of life that God has created. In Genesis 8:22, we are reminded of the enduring nature of the seasons: "As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night will never cease."

This passage calls us to reflect on the stability and beauty of God's creation and the role we play within it. Autumn is a time to acknowledge that, just as the earth prepares for rest, we too must work in harmony with creation, recognizing our dependence on it and our responsibility to steward it wisely. This stewardship extends beyond our care for the earth itself; it is deeply linked to our discipleship and love for others. In caring for nature, we show reverence for the gifts God has given us and protect the resources that sustain not only ourselves but future generations.



Romans 8:19-21 reminds us that creation eagerly awaits redemption and that our actions are part of this restoration. As we witness the natural world's seasonal transitions, we are invited to live out our faith by protecting the environment, ensuring its balance and flourishing for all. Our care for creation is a tangible expression of our love for others, as we ensure that the beauty and sustenance of the earth remain available to everyone.



Butterflies

Butterflies fly with their wings
spread so wide,

That it gives us all such a sense
of peace inside.

They fly by with their very
colourful ways,

They seem to put a smile on
everyone's face.

They fly onto your shoulder; fly onto
your nose,

They fly onto a daisy, a lily, or a rose.

A butterfly once so dull, so ordinary, so
plain,

Now only grows more beautiful with
each new passing day.

A butterfly, a beacon of how life should
be,

So happy to be able to live life freely.

A butterfly, an example of the
wonderful things,

That life seems to continuously bring.

by Carrie Ogle



WWF Carbon Footprint Quiz 2024 - AD



Last year, we did a carbon footprint survey to see how much we, as the Christ Church congregation, emit. This year, we'll be re-doing the quiz to see if we have improved and what we can do better. Whether you've done it before or not, it's a great way to help us understand our impact on the climate.



Click [here](#) to complete the 5 min quiz and please email your results to eco-editor-cc@tutanota.com . If you have time, please could you also send us the 'breakdown of your footprint' (home %, travel % etc.). If you're unable to do it at home, there will be a computer at the back of church where you can do it after the service.

Thank you for taking part!

Car sharing - AD

Driving an average UK car at 36 miles per gallon for 1 mile emits 530g of CO₂e. Did you know that you could cut that emission by 50-80% by giving a lift to others (who were going to drive by themselves instead)?

The Environment Group have decided to set up a new Car-Sharing Scheme so that anyone who is unable to walk or cycle to church has the opportunity to share lifts with others and lower their carbon footprint. If you would like to be involved in this, there will be sign-up sheets at the back of church.

Thank you!



Open Hands Reigate - LA

Under the Christ Church umbrella, a food bank collection point was set up in June 2020 during lockdown to support those in our local area. This was originally done via Renewed Hope Trust, and then passing to Open Hands Reigate, which resides in Reigate Baptist Church. Not only was our initial aim to provide needed food for those struggling in lockdown, but it was also bringing our Nutfield community together in uncertain times.

Early one morning, in late summer, when collecting the donations, we found freshly picked apples in our collection box. Then courgettes, parsley, onions, spinach, marrows kale, beetroot, squashes would be found too. It was a joy to find such goodies in our collection basket and share this with the volunteers at Open Hands, who were genuinely thrilled, and then to pass these donations to our thankful families.

Many of the fresh products are donated during the height of the growing season, when there is an abundance of homegrown food, and this is where our food bank opens its arms to you. So, if you have a glut of food growing in your garden, or on your allotment, and it needs a home, then please do consider donating.

I would like to add that the volunteers are always amazed by the amount of donations taken into the food bank, each Tuesday morning. Open Hands had many collection points around the Redhill/Reigate area during lockdown but our little one in South Nutfield still shines brightly. Let's keep it shining.

Thank YOU!

Ps. (A list is below of things you may like to donate)

Tinned tomatoes	Baked beans	Pasta Sauce	Bars of Soap
Tinned meat	Tinned Tuna	Stock cubes	Peanut Butter
Cream Crackers	Marmite	Loo rolls	Biscuits

Collection point: **Corner of Scout Hut Lane 81 Mid Street, by the notice board tree.** Please could all donations be within date, unopened and ingredients labelled. With many thanks xxx

Reverend Helen Burnett's Environment Talk - VH

A group of us got together with Reverend Len and Reverend Helen Burnett to listen to her interactive talk on our Christian response to the climate crisis, here in Surrey.

Helen started with a meditation, each of us holding a Scottish pebble, considering the deep time it represents about the planet earth, and God's time and Creation being held in His hands.

We were encouraged to consider when we first realised that there was a problem with the climate, what stopped us in our tracks? Now, currently where do we find our hope? And finally, where are we aiming for next in combatting climate change, as individuals and as a community?



She mentioned various ways of engaging with the local community that they have used in Chaldon and Caterham:

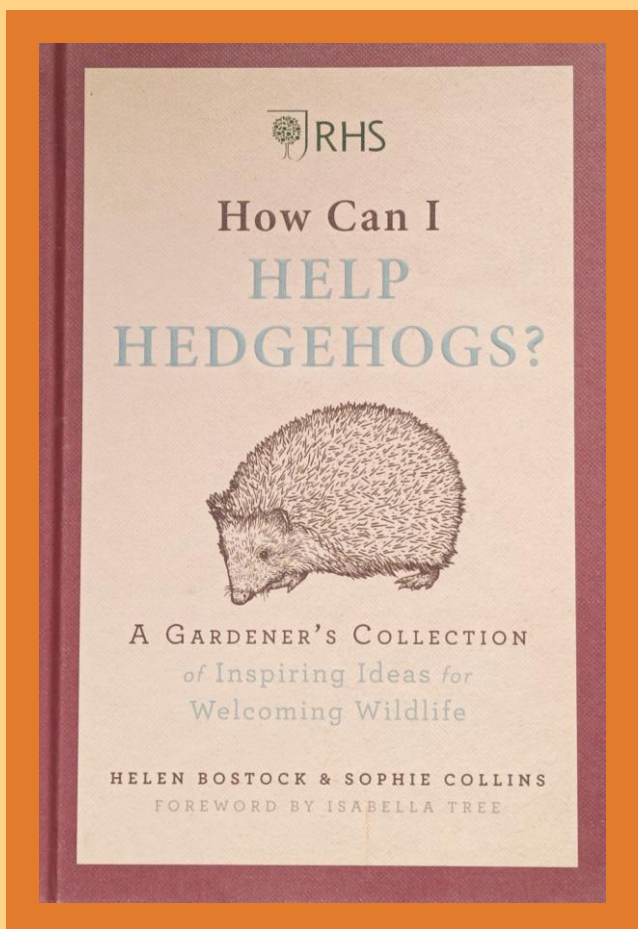
- The Big Green Day (in the Big Green Week at the end of June)
- The pilgrimage of Bishop Martin of Kingston during Lent, the possibility of hosting an evening meal, sleep over and breakfast for the pilgrims next Lent, if we are not all able to walk
- Engaging with the school's Eco Group to support the teachers and children
- Using vigil in public spaces, to hold a space in prayer, perhaps where there are environmental threats, such as contaminated water.



She used prayers and a poem to finish, challenging us to consider what are we going to do with the rest of our life?

The participants made generous donations, so we raised over £100 to go towards climate friendly improvements to the Church Hall.

Book Review – How Can I Help Hedgehogs? - CF *(Helen Bostock and Sophie Collins)*



With a foreword by Isabella Tree of Knepp Rewilding, this charming book caught my attention recently. It is intended to help existing gardeners wishing to make their gardens more beneficial to wildlife without drastic modification. The writing style is friendly and helpful, presenting a series of questions and answers or solutions that are easy to follow.

‘Where is best for a birdbox?’

‘Do insects prefer native plants?’

‘How can I keep squirrels from emptying my birdfeeders?’

‘How can I bring my pond to life?’

Nicely illustrated, and with a comprehensive index, it would make a handy reference book or good for dipping into for inspiration. A good present for any gardener.

If you would like to view or borrow a copy let me know.

Chris Fry

Coming Up This Autumn

Film Club

Join us on **Sunday 27th October** after the service to watch 'Cowspiracy' and 'learn how factory farming is decimating the planet's natural resources and why this crisis has been largely ignored by major environmental groups'.



Church Maintenance Day

A stitch in time saves nine 😊



We are meeting on the morning of **Saturday 21st September**, to address a few areas of the church building that need some looking after.

Principally sanding and treating the wood around the windows and doors in the centre, but we have a few other jobs as well. If you can lend a hand for a few hours, please contact

Nick Dobson:

Churchwarden1@cc-nutfield.org.uk

The Climate Coalition Lobby of Parliament

The Climate Coalition are 'inviting people up and down the country to meet with their MP on **Saturday 12th October**, in their constituencies, to show our elected officials that we want to see them champion projects that are good for us, good for nature and good for the climate.' If you are interested, please speak to Vron or Amelie or email eco-editor-cc@tutanota.com.



Want to help contribute to the next newsletter?

Email us at: eco-editor-cc@tutanota.com

