



Issue 3
16th September 23

The Bridge Group Parish Eco- Newsletter

NEWSLETTER September 2023

The Bridge Group Parish Eco Church Team aims to protect and care for the natural world by *Worship & Teaching * Recycling * Caring for our churchyard * Buying Fairtrade * Encouraging a greener lifestyle * Engaging with our local communities.

Inside this issue:

Eco Team	2
Forest School	2
Recycling News	3
CCC and Biodiversity	3
The John Muir Award	4

WHAT WE HAVE BEEN DOING AS AN ECO CHURCH OVER THE PAST YEAR?

- ⇒ Services on the theme of Creation and caring for the environment
- ⇒ Supporting the enhancement of our churchyards to encourage biodiversity
- ⇒ Using Fairtrade tea and coffee at our services and other activities
- ⇒ Maintaining our recycling station at Bridge
- ⇒ Installing new LED lighting at Patrixbourne
- ⇒ Preparing for a new single green utilities account for the Parish
- ⇒ Raising awareness in the community with our Eco Church Newsletter

Eco Lifestyle Top Tips!

- Use food that is LOAF (locally grown, organic and animal friendly)
- Undertake a personal Carbon footprint calculation
- Invest savings ethically
- Undertake an environmental lifestyle audit and of course.....
- **REDUCE!**
- **REUSE!**
- **RECYCLE!**



The Bridge Group Parish

23 HighStreet
Bridge
CT4 5JZ

Phone:
01227206272
Email:
bridgeoffice23@gmail.com
Website:
bridgechurchgroup.co.uk



The Eco Church Team was formed in 2019 when the Bridge Group sought to become a Parish of eco-accredited churches. We meet bi monthly to discuss our environmental impact as a parish and ways in which we can make changes to our day-to-day lives to help care for God's Creation.

The Eco Team is looking for more like-minded individuals to join us and share ideas and knowledge.

If you would like to know more about what the Eco Team is up to please email the contacts below.

Jean Barber (scriven06@gmail.com)
Megan Shirley (bridgeoffice23@gmail.com)

FOREST SCHOOL NEWS



Example of a round house

Through the year different age groups from Bridge and Patrixbourne School have had access to Forest School and have planted and harvested a range of flowers and edible plants. A large polytunnel with irrigation has been erected and Year 6 pupils, with help from a contractor, have constructed a round house using natural materials from the site. Photos of this were displayed at the Village Fete. A gardening group is being planned to help maintain the site.

The
co-operative
bank

DID YOU KNOW?

Our Parish now has a single bank account with the Co-op Bank. When we needed to change from separate accounts the PCC decided to find an ethical bank that would suit our needs, rather than some of the other high street banks that invest heavily in fossil fuels, armaments, tobacco etc. If you are interested to find out about your own bank go to www.ethicalconsumer.org and click on Ethical Bank Accounts (you don't need to subscribe).

RECYCLING NEWS

These days we have become used to separating our recyclable and non-recyclable rubbish but the recent strike by Canenco has highlighted the amount of paper, single use plastic, tins, bottles and food waste we formerly sent to landfill. The council site in Vauxhall Road can accept some of this, though not food waste, so while some of us are storing it in bags if we have space until the strike is over, much of it will be going back in our black bins. It's not easy, but could we use this time to buy more unpackaged foods where possible and reduce the amount of single use plastic we buy?

One way of doing this is by refilling the packaging we already have.

- The Refillable Van. Farmers' Market, Red Lion, Bridge 2nd Saturday of each month 9-12 and Pop Up, Bekesbourne 3rd Saturday 1-1.30.
- The Refillery 24 Sun Street, Canterbury (just past cathedral) open every day from 10am stocks foods, detergents, toiletries, household products and accessories, all ethically sourced and sustainable.

Watch out for our updated list of other Recycling Points coming this autumn!

If you are still not sure where to recycle - google KCC Waste Recycling Centres. This website has an A-Z list of anything you might ever want to dispose of.

DID YOU KNOW?

We waste on average 2 litres of water every time we turn on the tap and wait for it to run hot? Keep some empty milk bottles near your taps and use this excess to water your garden or in winter, to flush the loo.

NEWSFLASH!



A petition calling for a Declaration of Biodiversity Emergency was presented to the City Council in July by Canterbury Sustainability Development Goals (SDG) Forum and received unanimous cross-party support. Watch out for action on this from the City Council!

BEKESBOURNE CHURCHYARD

John Muir Award



This is an environmental award scheme which focuses on wild places. It encourages awareness and responsibility for the natural environment through a structured yet adaptable scheme in a spirit of adventure and exploration. A small group of homeschooled children and their mums are using Bekesbourne churchyard and the woods beyond as their 'wild place' to explore and learn. They have done some amazing work on trees and insects. It has been a joy to see them discovering things for themselves and having such fun. We hope that having completed the first stage they will go further and be able to share their work with a larger audience.



Did you know?



'Root and Branch', the magazine of A Rocha UK who run the Eco Church Awards, is available in Bridge Church entrance. It is full of interesting articles on environmental issues. You are welcome to take and read.

'Going for Gold'.

Our cathedral has a bronze Eco Church Award but as part of its Net Zero Carbon Action Plan it is forming a group to accelerate its work so it can achieve a Gold Award.

