

## The Bridge Group Parish

23 High Street  
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](mailto:scriven06@gmail.com))  
Megan Shirley ([bridgeoffice23@gmail.com](mailto:bridgeoffice23@gmail.com))

## FAIRTRADE

### WHY DOES THE CHURCH SUPPORT FAIRTRADE?

Fairtrade helps companies to source products that are ethically and sustainably produced. When you buy Fairtrade you can be sure that farmers and workers in the developing world have decent working conditions and get a fair price for what they produce.



### WHY ARE FAIRTRADE GOODS MORE EXPENSIVE?

Farmers receive a guaranteed fair minimum price from companies, plus the Fairtrade Premium, which is an extra sum to invest in community and business projects of their choice.



### WHAT SORT OF PROJECTS?

This is Sankara, a cocoa farmer from Côte d'Ivoire. The Fairtrade Premium, plus what she makes from farming, enabled her to open a store that supplements her income when cocoa production is low. Her community also used the Premium to build a water pump and school, so that children do not have to walk many miles to school in another town.

**Look out for the Fairtrade mark in your local supermarket and in some high street clothing stores like White Stuff, Seasalt and M&S.**

# SCHOOL ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECTS

Bridge & Patricbourne Primary School has created an Eco Team and has completed their first whole school project on climate change. Over 3 full days in October, each year group looked at a different element of climate change and then presented their findings to the rest of the school. This term there is a new focus on food waste reduction, the eco council are weighing the amount of food that is discarded at lunch times and will keep track of the waste with an aim to reducing the waste across the rest of the term and beyond. Some children have also had the opportunity to visit a local refillery to learn about reducing plastic usage.

Thanks to a local grant, a new bike rack has also been installed to encourage cycling to school. It is very encouraging that young people are being made aware of the need to think and act sustainably.

## THE GREAT PLASTIC COUNT 9-15 March 2026

**THE BIG  
PLASTIC  
COUNT  
9-15 MARCH**

During The Big Plastic Count In March over 35,000 people will be counting every piece of plastic packaging they throw away. This will uncover the true scale of the UK's big plastic problem so we can call on the government to do more about it.

Evidence shows that most of our plastic isn't actually recycled. The majority is burned in the UK. This speeds up the climate crisis and pollutes the air. To take part go to [thebigplasticcount.com](http://thebigplasticcount.com) website to sign up.

AND ALSO – Did you know that 1,000 schools across 36 countries, including over 20 in Kent, have joined the Plastic Clever Schools programme, which aims to teach children about plastic pollution and to take action to tackle the problem?

## BEKESBOURNE CHURCHYARD 4th MAY

The Friends of Bekesbourne Church are organising an Open Day (10am – 4pm) in the churchyard with the re-launch of the Churchyard Trail, which Jill Thomas wrote 10 years ago. There will also be a Children's Challenge which encourages children to look at the wildlife in the churchyard. Refreshments will be available in the church and families will be encouraged to bring their own picnics. It is hoped that this will inspire an interest in the natural world and an awareness of the need to look after God's amazing creation.





# The Bridge Group Parish Eco– Newsletter

## NEWSLETTER March 2026

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

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

- ⇒ Services on the theme of Creation and caring for the environment
- ⇒ Encouraging biodiversity in our churchyards
- ⇒ Using Fairtrade tea and coffee at our services and other activities
- ⇒ Maintaining our recycling station at Bridge
- ⇒ Completing the installation of smart meters in all our 5 churches
- ⇒ For more information on our Eco Church journey visit our website

<https://www.bridgechurchgroup.co.uk/eco-church-bridge-benefice.php>

### Inside this issue:

Eco Team	2
Fairtrade	2
Bekesbourne	3
The Big Plastic Count	3
Bridge School	3
Spring Cleaning tips	4
Recycling	4
Canterbury Repair Cafe	4



### Eco Lifestyle Top Tips!

- **REDUCE!**
- **REUSE!**
- **RECYCLE!**

# SPRING CLEANING

Along with the beautiful flowers and blossom we are beginning to see all around – come the weeds! Paths and patios can soon become unsightly and we are tempted to reach for the weedkiller. Unfortunately most of these contain glyphosate which is toxic to wildlife. An alternative which uses white vinegar is eco-friendly, easy to make – and really works!

## Recipe

1 litre of white vinegar

3 tsp salt

3 tbs washing up liquid

Mix together in a spray bottle and use on a sunny day for best results.

White vinegar can also be used to descale kettles, irons, shower heads and coffee machines. Diluted 50-50 with water you can also use it to clean glass and tiles.

# RECYCLING

We are still collecting soft plastics, dental accessories, batteries and stamps in our **Recycling Station** in the Bridge Church entrance. Unfortunately we have had to discontinue the blister pack recycling facility, partly due to the overwhelming amount being left there and also because Superdrug is no longer accepting large quantities. There are still boxes for small quantities in Canterbury Superdrug and Boots at Wincheap, so please continue to recycle your own used blister packs if you can. Coffee bags are no longer recycled by Terracycle so please add them to your soft plastics for recycling. Most large supermarkets will now accept them



## **Old electrical goods hiding in your cupboard or garage?**

Any item with a plug, use batteries, need charging or have a picture of a crossed out wheelie bin (WEEE items) can be recycled. Look on [recyclenow.com](http://recyclenow.com) or [recycleyourelectricals.co.uk](http://recycleyourelectricals.co.uk) or check the [kent.gov.uk/recycling](http://kent.gov.uk/recycling) website. B&Q and Currys have bins for small electrical items. Currys recycles 60,000 tonnes of unwanted tech and electric goods each year.

# REPAIR SHOP



The Hub Café, Canterbury Baptist Church, CT1

1XB 10.00am – 12.30pm.

14th March, 11th April, 25th April (at St Dunstan's Church), 9th May, 13<sup>th</sup> June.

Volunteers with craft skills help mend clothes and repair broken things such as household objects, woodwork, toys, ceramics, jewellery, electrical items, computers, phones, bicycles, etc, and offer energy advice — making homes energy-efficient and saving money on fuel bills. Repairs and advice are free, although donations are welcome!