

Eco update for Spring/Summer from Twyford

Spring has arrived bringing with it all sorts of weather, and no matter what is happening in the material world the rhythms of nature continue – with blossom on the trees, spring bulbs, and overwintering birds preparing their nests as we wait to welcome the swallows after their 6,000 mile journey from South Africa.

This is being written just days before Earth Day on April 22nd when people from across the world come together and voice their support for a healthy, sustainable and habitable future for the planet and all people. The objective of Earth Day is to “build the world’s largest environmental movement to drive transformative change for the world”. With everyone’s participation, we can achieve that goal! Let us play our part by supporting our Eco Church journey at St Mary’s, and we welcome Holy Trinity, Colden Common joining us alongside - and let’s increase our awareness of all the initiatives taking place in our community.

Many of us are fortunate to have at least a small patch of garden - such crucial lifelines for nature. If you have a lawn, Plantlife is suggesting #NoMowMay – giving your mower a rest and letting wild flowers flourish in the garden, providing a feast of nectar for pollinators. The wild patch at the southern end of St Mary’s church has been sown with yellow rattle and wild flower seed, and planted with plugs of poppy and cornflower.

There have been several recent initiatives at planting mixed native hedging and trees in Twyford and Owslebury - for example at Morestead Church, Hill View Farm in Owslebury, Hunter Park, Northfields, Churchfields meadow and along Church Lane. These are vital initiatives as we move towards reducing the carbon dioxide in the atmosphere and increasing the oxygen. The importance of trees and shrubs cannot be overstated as they provide food and shelter, while purifying the air we breathe and maintaining balance in our ecosystem.

Many in our villages have taken to cycling as an alternative to car travel. While it is still challenging to cycle to Winchester along the B3335, efforts are ongoing to provide a safe cycle route to the city. A new company selling and renting e-bikes has opened up in Station Terrace, Shawford (www.thecyclecompany.co.uk).

Our ever-expanding, Twyford Post Office and Stores has launched a product refill scheme to provide a valuable service and to cut back on the amount of packaging and new plastic.

Dates for the diary

We are holding a plant sale at the end of Christian Aid Week on, **Saturday, May 15th** in St Mary’s churchyard. The funds raised will go towards promoting resilient farming in Kenya with the provision of taps at a dam’s waterpoint, enabling easier access to water.

In July the village is holding a Green Fair round St Mary’s church on **Saturday, July 17th** – with the aim of re-focusing attention from pandemic to planet, to enjoy a community social occasion, share ideas on living sustainably and to encourage people to put them into practice. Please do support these events and spread the news of them to your neighbours, family and friends.

Some more Eco suggestions

- Think before you buy – will I use it? – do I really need it? – or do I just want it?
- Think before you act – turning on a tap, taking the car out, what to cook for a meal – and avoid meaningless consumerism.

- To cut down further on plastic waste, carry a re-usable cup, water bottle (filled with tap water) and shopping bag when you go out.
- Plan meals for the week ahead. Only buy the food you need and avoid waste.
- Compost.
- Olio is a free mobile app for food sharing, aiming to reduce food waste by connecting those with surplus food with those who need it.
- Oddbox is a veg box scheme that delivers rescued misshapen products.