

Torbay Christian EcoAction

April 2025 newsletter

This is barely sneaking into the end of the month as the April 2025 newsletter. As previously, this newsletter is coming in PDF form but also with a link at <https://davidhodson.com/torbay-christian-ecoaction-april-2025-newsletter/> if that is easier for you to distribute. If you want a Word version, let me know. If you want to unsubscribe, email me. If you know of anyone whom you think would like to receive, again let me know. As previously, it is a mixture of events, resources and news. If anyone has anything they would like publicised, please let me know.

I hope in the May newsletter to take the chance to reflect on globally what might be happening. There is understandably a sense of anxiety and even depression at recent events, to which I referred in the previous newsletters, and seemingly an acknowledgement that targets for 2030 and 2035 will not be reached. Nevertheless there seems to be some evidence coming out that although global climate change tipping points, even irretrievable tipping points, are being reached and passed, the momentum of emissions is slowing and in places slightly going into reverse. I say some evidence because inevitably this is in hot dispute! This should never cause us to give up and it won't. Getting the true picture is immensely difficult. Moreover we have the hugely distinctive and privileged position as Christians in having confidence in our Lord that he loves the environment and cares for it and helps us in our role as stewards of it. The need for prayer remains paramount.

Southwest Marine Fest 29th May, 9:30 AM, Brixham Laboratory

This event organised by conservation chat UK is to look at the marine environment in the south-west of England. The advertisements say there will be an inspiring lineup of speakers and other events during the day. I intend to go along. More details can be found here. https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/south-west-marine-fest-conference-2025-tickets-713678721267?fbclid=IwZXh0bgNhZW0CMTEAAR09OInV3qyb_b48DxrWMoBA7HFdS1ABGsKb4h6inIBIHRqVQhSuK0VgQZk_aem_ns3ZAAulFEbWagbq07BzKg&sfnsn=scwspmo

Give to go green.

This is a funding arrangement from the Exeter diocese, and I think from other Anglican diocese as well, where they will match, effectively double, whatever funding is obtained by a church in a fairly short period of time, arising from new initiatives for funding, for the

purposes of what might be described as green initiatives. There are fairly strict and tight conditions, perhaps inevitably. St Matthias has decided to take part and is holding a number of events in June and July. There is a Dream Auction on 18 June 2025 with proceeds shared between the St Matthias Green Project and Rowcroft. On 26th June there is a jazz concert. On 19th July there will be a concert by the Torbay Folk Choir. Also over that period will be a barbecue and a quiz. All invited. Please contact me for more details.

Water temperature in Torbay and air temperatures

Never let anyone say that the oceans and seas are significantly unaffected by air temperatures. We have seen that in Torbay in these past few days. In the last few months I've qualified as a watch keeper with the National Coastwatch Institute, the tower on Daddy Hole Plain, which keeps watch over the bay and the coasts, liaising with the coastguard and others. At 5 past the hour when on duty we do a weather broadcast on channel 65. We include the sea temperature from the wave buoy, which is situated in the middle of Torbay. I was on duty on Saturday, only 4 days ago. Water temperature was 11.6. It had been floating around mid 11° for several weeks. Today, 30th April, it is 13°. An increase of 1.4° in only 4 days. Because presumably of the warm air temperature we have enjoyed over these past few days. I'm not a scientist but this seems pretty clear evidence to me of the interrelationship. As air temperatures increase because of the carbon emissions, water temperatures are progressively and systematically increasing. And we have evidence this week in Torbay

Current net zero policy is doomed to fail

I admit I was a Tony Blair supporter for most of his time as Prime Minister and have continued to follow what he has written, some of which is at best quirky but some of which shows a good understanding of global politics. In a report recently published, he has called for a major rethink of net zero policies arguing that present policies of limiting energy consumption and fossil fuel production are doomed to fail. He says voters, you and I, are being required to make significant financial sacrifices and lifestyle changes when we know the impact is minimal; a view that many of us hear when talking to people about climate issues. He says global organisations like COP and the UN have failed to make sufficient and actual progress. The report calls for greater deployment of carbon capture and storage technology and, controversially perhaps, investment in small-scale nuclear reactors. Crucially it calls for a fundamental international effort to persuade China and India to cut emissions. I think many of us feel frustrated that these huge countries seem to be doing so little yet are huge emitters. Much more here but I think he is raising questions that many in our community including our churches are asking and which need to be considered. Welcome any further thoughts on this.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cpvrwyp0jx3o>

Government is not taking climate seriously

Within a matter of hours of the above comments by Tony Blair appearing, there was published another report, this time by the Climate Change Committee, which says that

government is making very little progress in preparing the UK for growing threats posed by rising temperature. I looked into this committee and it is required to report to Parliament every 2 years on the U.K.'s progress to adapt pursuant to the Climate Change Act 2008. It says progress is either too slow, has stalled or is heading in the wrong direction. Better preparation can limit the damage by making the country more resilient. Climate impact is happening faster and more intensely and increasing, comments that we hear frequently in other places. The government responded, disagreeing. The full background can be found here: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cvgpey03pnno>

Carbon literacy newsletter

The latest newsletter can be found here it's worth subscribing.

<https://mailchi.mp/22214f649376/carbon-literacy-update3-10148649?e=a9da36ba53>

Tearfund big quiz

A date for the diary for later in the year. It will be held this year on 15 November 2025 and we have already booked St Matthias Church to hold it. More later

The Church of England environmental days and key events calendar

This helpful calendar gives details of the many key dates in the environmental calendar. They will be of different interests to different people but is very informative. Once one knows of the events, is easy to find out more via Internet searching of course. It can be downloaded here:

<https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2024-12/environment-calendar-2025.pdf>

One Torbay: Torbay Council weekly newsletter

Our local council produces a weekly newsletter of developments. I include some in these newsletters although I'm conscious to avoid any suggestion of political elements. But there is a strong environmental theme to the newsletter. May I recommend strongly subscribing. It really is most informative. More details here <https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/UKTORBAYCOUNCIL/subscriber/new?preferences=true>

Similar work from our friends in Plymouth

Here is their April newsletter: <https://mailchi.mp/6e402480b6ee/pcga-eneews-mid-april-2025?e=9dd45dc4a5> There are lots of events and campaigns and resources set out in their newsletters and it's great to be mutually involved across South Devon.

Thank you for getting this far.

Please let me have any items you want me to distribute including from your organisation or church or news items for information.

Best wishes and God bless

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