

Torbay Christian EcoAction

August 2025 newsletter

This is the August 2025 newsletter. As previously, this newsletter is coming in PDF form but also with a link at <https://davidhodson.com/torbay-christian-ecoaction-august-2025-newsletter/> if that is easier for you and 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.

Fair trade fortnight

This takes place 22nd September-5th October with an emphasis through many events on choosing fair trade and campaigning for a global fair movement. There are lots of resources available including for events to be held and joining up with national events. Just making sure that our churches and other communities use fair trade products. It may not make much difference to us in our supermarket bill but it makes a huge amount of difference in agricultural and other communities producing the food we enjoy here in England. Do get involved and encourage your church to get involved. More details here: <https://www.fairtrade.org.uk/get-involved/current-campaigns/fairtrade-fortnight/>

Saving species conference

This takes place on 30th October at the University Centre, Paignton, and covers topics as diverse as the brown hare, the Beaver, the little owl, species recovery at sharpham on the River Dart and wild Dartmoor. More details here. If anyone is thinking of going, please let me know. <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/saving-species-conference-2025-tickets-713672974077?aff=ebdsoporgprofile&sfnsn=scwspmo>

Bible studies on Christianity and climate change

As your home groups and church groups consider what may be a suitable subject for study over the coming autumn term, even sermon topics, how about Christianity and climate change. Again I'm grateful to our friends in Plymouth for highlighting the studies put together by operation Noah: <https://www.operationnoah.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/Christianity-Climate-Change-Bible-Study-Courses.docx-2.pdf>

Tearfund big quiz

This is being held on 15 November, and we have already booked St Matthias Church to hold it. Judi, Clare and I will be in touch separately with everyone with more details in September. But put it in your diary now.

The water around our coasts

Given that we are a coastal community, this topic is now almost a standing subheading. Yet again a number of issues arise

Last month I carried a story about the increase in jellyfish, octopus and similar aspects of marine life appearing in Torbay and the Devon coast consequential upon the warming of our waters. Perhaps it was not therefore too surprising to see the item that rising sea floor temperatures, which of course is the sea floor itself rather than the sea, is risking marine life. Again it comes from our nearby Plymouth Marine laboratory, who do excellent work. It is directly affecting the bottom dwelling species who are unable or less able to escape the increase. It was linked to the recent invasion of octopus. I suspect it's nothing that we didn't know already but I bring it to your attention.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/ce83pd2j1yyo>

Our neighbouring council, South Hams, is commencing a water monitoring scheme to tackle river pollution. Good on them. Based at Totnes and presumably concentrating on the River Dart, it should give better indicators of water quality. More details here:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cy4dq5x0l57o>

The season of creation also known as creatiointide

This is a time observed by some denominations globally to reflect spiritually on God's wider creation, his relationship to it and our relationship with it. It runs from 1st September-4th October. A Rocha have created some resources and prayers. I'm leading the intercessions at church on Sunday morning and guess what! An ideal time to use these resources. More details here: <https://arocha.org.uk/what-we-do/season-of-creation/>

Making waves: the Conservative plan for nature-based coastal renewal and resilience

I acknowledge this is party political, but I'm happy to promote other initiatives. The Conservative environment network has launched a policy document with the above title. It is specifically about coastal communities, recognising many are in long-term decline with high income deprivation, which is sadly the state here in Torquay. It couples this with climate change, biodiversity loss and similar. It sets out four policies. Streamline regulation for marine restoration businesses. Unlock private investment by publishing blue carbon codes. Use flood defence budgets to fund more nature-based solutions.

Designate more highly protected marine areas to protect wildlife. More details can be found here: <https://www.cen.uk.com/making-waves>

Paignton seafront flood defence

Having referred to flood defence budgets in the above item, it's timely to draw attention to the major flood defence work due to start next month in Paignton and Preston. These sea fronts are our biggest vulnerability in Torbay to flooding, especially easterly winds on a spring tide. It will be a major amount of work from September 2025 until May 2027 with a lot of disruption especially throughout spring and summer next year. There has been quite a lot of publicity in local media and local social media and it will hopefully be a major benefit for the seafront in those areas as well as, naturally, protecting our community. There was a discussion recently on the Torbay Climate Action Group, led by specialists from Exeter University, about the impact on all of Torbay by e.g. flooding in the Paignton area. Most of us presume that if the flooding doesn't affect us directly, all will be well. It won't. It will have major knock-on consequences across health services, emergency response services, energy supplies, mobile phone services and more. This is vital seafront defence work

Great British beach clean 2025: 19th-28th September

The Marine conservation Society are organising this with local beach cleanup exercises. I am on a Facebook page of an organisation which does regular beach clean around Torbay but this is a national enterprise. Many of us live near a local beach and it would be good to join in and support. There is one at Goodrington Sands on 20th September and another at Torre Abey Sands, Torquay, on 23rd September. More details here with the Torquay area already programmed in: https://www.mcsuk.org/what-you-can-do/join-a-beach-clean/great-british-beach-clean/great-british-beach-clean-events/?order=distance&latitude=50.4619209&longitude=-3.525315&from_date=2025-09-19&to_date=2025-09-28

Christian climate action National Day of climate prayer for the church: 14th September

I include this for those who support Christian climate action. I confess I had a falling out because I disagreed with their support for some very radical and I felt unnecessarily disruptive aspects of protest. They will be hosting a number of vigils outside cathedrals to encourage the Church of England to take climate matters seriously. I think they do and I'm relatively impressed by what comes out of the diocese office. Of course they can do more. But here are details: <https://christianclimateaction.org/2025/06/06/national-day-of-climate-prayer-for-our-church/>

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 August newsletter: <https://mailchi.mp/15d8087ee7ae/pcga-eneews-mid-august-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. I openly acknowledge I plunder some of their news reports for this newsletter and I am always happy if they want to borrow from ours. We are all working together.

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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