

Torbay Christian EcoAction

April 2026 newsletter

This is the April 2026 newsletter. As previously, this newsletter is coming in PDF form but also with a link at <https://davidhodson.com/torbay-christian-ecoaction-april-2026-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. The primary news for us is our event on 18th July

Torbay Marine EcoFest: 18th July

We are now significantly advanced in the planning for this event and we hope everyone receiving this newsletter and many from your churches will attend. Many will remember our very successful EcoFest in November 2023. We are holding a similar event on Saturday 18th July, but concentrating on marine elements; our seaside, our coast, our bay, our channel, our oceans. With this newsletter will come the draft programme for information but not publicity purposes yet. It will be at St Matthias Church from 10:30 AM until about 5 PM. In the morning we will have a number of activities including for children. We are hoping to have a number of stalls which were themselves have matters of much interest. We may well have an art competition. We will have some talks about how to get into a career in marine environmental work. And much more being planned for the morning. In the afternoon we have an excellent series of talks and we are delighted that Prof John Spicer from Plymouth University will be our keynote. Previous newsletters have covered the controversy with the removal of the blue flags from our beaches and we hope someone from the council will come to discuss this. We have a number of other organisations crucially involved in our bay, our rivers and our English Channel and we have much to learn. We are really excited at these talks. We then hope to end with a few talks about enjoying our wonderful bay and what can happen for the future.

Please make a note of it now in your diary and for your church diaries. If you want any more information, let me know. If you know of an organisation that would like a stand or be involved again get in touch. We hope to have many organisations represented and in attendance along with many across Torbay to find out about these important matters. Please pray that it may go well in planning and on the day and thank you

Wetter winters and warmer summers hit marine life

With very apposite timing with our above event, the local BBC meteorologist, David Braine, has written about the impact in Devon and Cornwall on the wildlife of the recent weather changes, specifically much higher rainfall in the first few months of this year as well as warmer summers last year and the year before. In other words very up-to-date and

very local. It also highlights the excellent work going on at the Plymouth Marine laboratory. This important story is here:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cy51wrg6lp0o>

U.K.'s biggest environmental pollution claim reaches the High Court today

Some of you may have been following the saga of the pollution of the rivers on the Welsh English border by a chicken producing company and, unsurprisingly, a water company. It's a colossal class-action. It will undoubtedly be featuring in the news. It was a dreadful event of pollution of several important rivers. More details are here and I will follow up when any judgement comes through. The lawyers acting for the claimants are the same firm acting in the claim against Southwest water brought by swimmers in Exmouth and elsewhere. The link is here: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cqx15rjw58po>

The golden eagle returns to English skies Torbay Council abolishes the blue flags for beaches.

I acknowledge an indulgence. Ever since decades ago I went on a birdwatching holiday in Arran and saw the golden eagle in flight, I have been captivated by the beauty as well as immense size and grandeur of this British bird. I think the Osprey comes close second amongst the big raptors but the golden eagle is something apart. It's not been in England since the 19th-century and there are now real steps for their re-introduction. And to get us really excited, one of the possible locations is the south-west. So get those binoculars out! The story is here <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cje4zlxqkqdo>

People's National Emergency Briefing

I have not seen the film but I'm told this is a powerful presentation of the growing climate and nature emergency. I don't necessarily endorse what will be said but I do share. I have heard from a reliable source that it is a powerful, positive and impactful film in simple but crucial language for the public. It's 45 minutes and is explicitly educational on the need for urgent action. Apparently there has been hostings in Totnes and Teignmouth and one is awaited in Torbay. If I hear more I will send details around. Here are the details

<https://www.nebriefing.org/the-film>

Green policy for a church

As part of our work towards silver accreditation, we are asking our PCC to adopt a green policy. The meeting will be in June and we will keep you posted. If any other church are thinking of doing the same, let me know and I can send over the draft we have suggested. If any other church has already got a green policy, please let me know your experience with this.

Tearfund Quiz: 21st November

Please note this will now take place at St Matthias on the evening of 21st November, a week later than initially announced, in order to avoid clashing with another event and please put in your diaries.

Creation Care Exeter diocese

Might I also recommend the newsletter from the Creation Care team at the Exeter diocese. I don't have a web link easily to hand but here is the webpage about their environmental and climate change work: <https://exeter.anglican.org/environment/>

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>

Devon wildlife trust newsletter

Again I recommend their newsletter and here is a link to their events page: <https://www.devonwildlifetrust.org/events>

Similar work from our friends in Plymouth

Here is their April newsletter: <https://mailchi.mp/69ae6a4d7be1/pcga-enews-mid-april-2026?e=9dd45dc4a5> . I tend to write this newsletter and then read theirs to see what more I should be adding. I see they have also publicised the emergency briefing film and there is a showing in Plymouth on 29th of May with a discussion afterwards. If there is no local showing do go along.

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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