

Torbay Christian EcoAction

May 2026 newsletter

This is the May 2026 newsletter. As previously, this newsletter is coming in PDF form but also with a link at <https://davidhodson.com/torbay-christian-ecoaction-may-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 well advanced in the planning for this event and we hope everyone receiving this newsletter and many from your churches will attend. I anticipate in writing in a separate note in a couple of weeks when the flyer and other 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 updated 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 have an art competition. We will have 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 Torbay 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 end with 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

The blue Danube no more

Earlier this month, my wife and I had the real joy of a 10 day river cruise on the River Danube, from Budapest via Belgrade through the Iron Gorge into Romania. Fascinating with interesting history and geography and much more. Except for the River Danube. It

was horrid. I had taken my swimmers just in case the chance of a dip arose and it definitely didn't. Of course I appreciate the problems of cleaning up a river when there must be half a dozen or more countries bordering it from its source down to the Black Sea. There is a lot of heavy industry and aggregates along the riverbank and we only saw part. But it seemed to me a microcosm of our planet. Of course each country could blame the others but ultimately each country has the disadvantage of a badly polluted river which nevertheless defines boundaries, culture and the spirit of the area. Each need to play their part and expect the others to do so. I suspect it's no different to any other river running through other countries in industrialised areas. But it was very depressing and sad

South West Marine Fest Conference

This event in Brixham takes place over 2 days next week, Thursday and Friday and brings together many speakers on many aspects of marine conservation and here are the details. I think I may have seen that the first day has already sold out. If anyone is going, please let me know as I would be interested to know what happens and anything picked up from it. Sadly I can't make either day otherwise I would be attending both. Details here:

https://www.eventbrite.com/cc/south-west-marine-fest-conference-157439?fbclid=IwdGRzaAReDGFjbGNrBF4Ms2V4dG4DYWVtAjExAHNydgMGYXBwX2lkDDM1MDY4NTUzMTcyOAABHmOII0FTp1bgAG-uOLcP7f5icSjKV-X0LVUDE0N2AwS9QWzm-jAZNfux7TQI_aem_YNXVST8wz449W3GTI5i-wQ&sfnsn=scwspmo

National emergency briefing on climate and nature recovery

I am grateful to Jacqui Warren of Torbay Council for bringing this to my attention. This is a film, 45 minutes, that aims to educate the public on the need for urgent action. It's based on a briefing held in Westminster in November with leading experts on the evidence of climate and nature crisis in a format briefing to National decision-makers. It's now been adapted into a film for the public in a simple and easy digester format. It contains interviews with members of the public and so-called famous people whilst watching the briefings. It is being held around the country and details are here including a map where it can be seen locally including in Torquay, Paignton and Brixham. I would be very interested in any feedback. Details here: <https://www.nebriefing.org/screening-map>

South-west church green investment webinar: 29th September

Advance notice of an opportunity to hear how churches are investing in climate solutions with examples from congregations already making changes. It's part of the good money week. More details here although I can't see any details of this particular event and perhaps just put in diary and I will follow-up next month: <https://goodmoneyweek.com/>

Great Big Green Week, 6-14th June including world environment Day, 5th June

The great big Green week is the U.K.'s biggest celebration of community action to tackle climate change and protect nature running from 6th to 14th June. More details of events are here: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1kTJqpV9urVNIHvCZiPololRqy3_-Oex-/view

Churches count on nature 6-14th June

This is a national initiative in which hundreds of church communities take part in a week-long nature count to monitor and celebrate the biodiversity in churchyards. In 2025 there were more than 8500 records of nature spotted from over 6000 participants. Do encourage your church to take part. More details here:

<https://www.caringforgodsacre.org.uk/love-your-burial-ground-week-national-cemeteries-week-and-churches-count-on-nature/>

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 May newsletter: <https://mailchi.mp/57e58df1e7e6/pcga-eneews-mid-may-2026?e=9dd45dc4a5>. I tend to write this newsletter and then read theirs to see what more I should be adding.

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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