

ISSUE 6 . APRIL 2023

GREEN APOSTLE NEWS SOUTHERN SYNOD

Eco Resources for Churches

BY REVD DAVID PICKERING AND REVD NADENE SNYMAN



Eco Church News

A big congratulations to Emmanuel URC, West Wickham on receiving their BRONZE Award and for St John's URC, Orpington on receiving their SILVER Award. It is exciting to see churches taking such positive steps towards greening our church lives together. Please do let us know when you have achieved your next award, we would love to celebrate these achievements together as a Synod, to encourage and inspire one another.

Please also be in touch with myself, Nadene, if you would like to chat about starting Eco-Church or you want to talk about next steps. I have met with a number of churches and we are on the journey together. Eco-Church upcoming events can be found [here](#)

Get Involved in Nature Counts in 2023:

Count on
Nature
Saturday 3rd
to Sunday 11th
of June 2023
[For more info](#)



The Big Butterfly Count
begins on Friday 14th
July 2023 and will run
until Sunday 6th
August. [For more info](#)



Wild Isles – wandering and wondering locally

Many of us have been thrilled by the latest David Attenborough series, 'Wild Isles' celebrating nature around our isles, and reminding us of the increasingly perilous state of nature. Typically, we've been shown species remote from our homes, but there is amazing wildlife on our doorsteps.

Wandering through woods in Spring we may feast our eyes on the beauty of blooms including wood anemone, primroses, violets and the haze of bluebells. Over the Easter weekend I saw each within a local wood in Greater London, and stumbled over a more unusual spot, a patch of toothwort.

So named, as it has the appearance of a stack of teeth, it is also known as a corpse flower, which may relate to its fleshy colour, or from ghoulish stories that it is found growing above buried bodies! The tag is not wholly without foundation, for this wonder of the plant world is a saprophyte, that is it lives parasitically on another plant.

In this one local spot the two big messages of 'Wild Isles' come together. First, that nature is astonishing and beautiful, and second that human lifestyle, like the toothwort, is increasingly parasitic on the natural world. So enjoy wandering and wondering amidst God's gift of creation this Spring, and may we be moved to tread more gently on our wild isles.

Photo and article by David Pickering

Toothwort



**THE GREAT
BIG GREEN
WEEK** 

Get ready for
**Great Big Green
Week 2023**
taking place between
10th and 18th June
[More info](#)

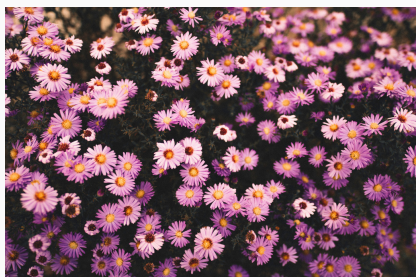


NO MOW MAY

No Mow May is an annual campaign run by Plantlife calling all garden owners and green space managers not to mow during May, allowing grass, and crucially wildflowers to grow. The UK has lost over 90% of its wildflower meadows since the 1970s, so allowing even a small patch to revert to such a meadow can make a real difference. If your church has an area of grass do let us know if you're planning to join No Mow May, and we'd be delighted to receive pictures of any flowers that appear in your patch. We can report back in due course. Meanwhile a couple of tips:

1. Signposting your patch with 'No Mow May' can spread the word and foster support, should your patch look a little straggly
2. Repeating 'No Mow May' in the same patch in successive years may increase the number of flowers that appear, especially if you allow seeds to set by extending the no mow period through to July.

Article by David Pickering



Why not
consider taking
part at your
church?





A bit of more information about

The Big One

event in Westminster.

You'd be very welcome to come along yourself or bring a group from your church. It would be great to see the URC joining in with all the other Christian organisations that will be represented.

There is a **No Faith in Fossil Fuels** service on
Friday 21 April at 12:00
in St John's Waterloo

followed by a pilgrimage to Parliament
(bring a banner!)

Register here

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/no-faith-in-fossil-fuels-service-and-pilgrimage-to-parliament-tickets-547860203617>

For people not able to come to London during the weekend events, a service in solidarity is available for churches to use or adapt.

Green Christian has got a great page with lots of info that churches can use.

<https://greenchristian.org.uk/the-big-one/>

The URC would love to share reports on this after the event – please do take photos and send your favourites to David and I and we can send them onto the Green Apostle's Network for sharing on social media

Article by Nadene Snyman

