

DBC Eco Church Newsletter

April 2023

Welcome to our Newsletter.

For more information about the Dronfield Baptist Eco Church Group contact – margaret.keen@talk21.com

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Review of “Childhood awaits every person” by Chris Walton

When I bought a copy of this book, I looked at it and it made want to read it, some books are like that the first impressions are so important, the colours of the front cover and the photograph, of cause when you know author that is a great incentive.

It is a book where the title tells you what to expect. The book itself is the story of fifteen years where the author and his wife had what was a unique experience of engaging children in the natural world. The location was the Ringsfield Eco Activity Centre in Suffolk, and the ages of the children were between 8 and 12 years, many from inner city schools.

The centre was a large building with extensive grounds where the children could run and play to their hearts’ content and of course it was full of trees, flowers, and wildlife; to some of the children this was a new experience.

What amazed me was the nature of the approach to these girls and boys. At the start of their stay, they were asked to find their own Magic Spot in the grounds they were given a bit of carpet to sit on and encouraged to sit in silence for a short period of time, which got longer as the week progressed.

The children were given a pencil and paper and asked to write down what they enjoyed about their Magic Spots. These answers form a major part of the book, and they are very revealing. Children do find the natural world with its

colours, sounds and creatures fascinating. At the end of the week as soon as magic spots were mentioned they couldn’t get to them fast enough.

Feedback from the parents and schools were very complimentary.

Two things from this were especially meaningful to me because my story starts on 12 December 1940 when my aunties house was burnt down with her in it, she was brought out by a fireman who ran upstairs as the flames came through her bedroom ceiling to rescue her bedside cabinet which was all she now owned.

My auntie came to live at our house for seven years until my dad came out of the army and my sister was three years old and in that time, she taught me to paint and took out me into the country we collected leaves put them in a book and noted the names of the trees. I leant to identify the birds and that bumbles don’t sting unless you scare them, I collected butterflies and pinned them to a piece of cork they were my special collection (they were humanly killed before they were mounted). My love of God’s creation as just grown and grown over the last eighty-two years.

The great challenge for us is that in our work with children these days we seldom take them out into the country to let them get close to God’s wonderful creation and seem to concentrate our efforts on computer games, sport, and music. I believe that the natural world brings people of all ages closer to the great creator.

I suggest that everyone gets the book and reads it for themselves and let God you speak to you as He did to me.

Best wishes.

Norman Crowson

Why do some appliances use electricity when they aren't being used.

Here are some of the reasons why your electronics or appliances might use energy while they are switched off or on standby.

- They have a continuous display or an internal clock, for example your microwave or your coffee machine.
- They need to receive a signal, for example your TV
- They constantly monitor the temperature, for example your fridge.
- They are constantly 'listening', for example Sonos or an Alexa.
- They are light or motion activated, for example night lights or motion activated lights.
- They are continuously converting AC power to DC power, for example your laptop charger.

Which appliances use the most energy while on standby?

Additional fridges; Fridges and freezers account for around 13% of the average household's energy bill. While you can't turn off your fridge when it is stocked full of food, many people have additional fridges that they use for drinks that could be switched off when not needed.

TV Boxes: TV boxes such as Sky Q or Virgin TV 360 Box are actually some of the biggest consumers of energy while on standby – with a Sky Q costing around £25 a year. You may be able to switch your box into eco-mode when it isn't in active use to reduce how much electricity it consumes.

Microwave: Another electronic that uses a surprising amount of electricity while on standby is your microwave. According to Money Saving Expert, they use around 5p a day while on standby, which adds up to over £20 a year. Get around this by simply turning it off at the wall when you aren't using it.

Televisions: TVs search for satellite or WIFI signals while they are on standby, but they don't cost as much money as other articles might lead you to believe. This is because EU laws state that TVs manufactured since 2013 can't use more than 0.5 watts while on standby mode.

Computers: Did you know that your screen timing on your laptop or computer doesn't necessarily mean it is in energy saving 'sleep mode'? Have you ever shut the lid on a fully charged laptop and found its battery empty in the morning? To get around this, you can adjust your computer and laptop sleep settings to kick in sooner after a period of inactivity, and make sure you tick the box to put your laptop into sleep mode when you shut the lid.

Chargers: Leaving your laptop charger plugged into the mains even when it isn't charging up your laptop uses unnecessary electricity. It might feel hot to the touch, and that's because it's using energy to convert AC power from the mains into DC power. Other chargers to watch out for are electric toothbrush chargers – unplug them when not in use – and phone or tablet chargers. While they don't use lots of electricity, you should unplug your device when it is fully charged or you might slowly degrade the battery.

(Taken from Good Energy Website)

Dates for your Diary.

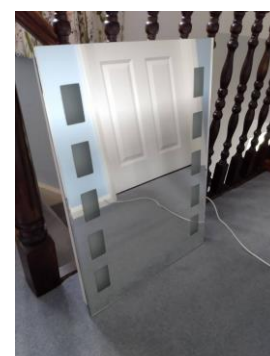
Friday 14th April 9.30-11.30 Gardening morning (weather permitting). Do come and help if you can.

Saturday 22nd April Outing to Old Moor RSPB Reserve. Meet at Church at 9.30 am. Bring a packed lunch.

Don't forget to make use of DBC Freecycle. Let me know if you have anything to post on here.



Free to new home
– contact Jeff
Sorrill on 0798
4155650



Mirror –
70x50x6.5cms. Mains
powered with two
slim, vertical
fluorescent tubes
either side. Contact
Chris Bygrave 01246
415494