

February – March 2025

Welcome to our Newsletter.

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

Energy Savers Week

Energy Savers Week was during January, but that doesn't mean we can't do it in February. Here are a few tips from energysavingtrust.org.uk:

Day 1 – Check your radiators

Bleed your radiators – cold spots caused by trapped air could mean your radiators aren't giving out as much heat as they should. You can bleed your radiators yourself – some radiators have a valve that can be bled using a flathead screwdriver. If the valve has a square spindle with no flathead cutout you will need a radiator bleeding key. You can get these from most DIY shops or online (locally they can be purchased from Geoffs in the Civic Centre). Ensure the heating is off and has had time to cool down before bleeding. You may need to repressurise the system after doing this. You can check your boiler's user manual for how to do this or check with a heating engineer.

Day 2 – Check your boiler's flow temperature.

The boiler flow temperature is the temperature of the water your boiler sends to your radiators and hot water cylinder (if you have one). Turning your boiler's flow temperature down can reduce your heating bill by as much

as 9% according to some claims. This is set on the boiler itself – you can check your user manual to find out how to change this. If you are unsure ask a heating engineer to reduce the flow temperature for you. If you have a combi boiler you could turn it down to 60° in cold weather. In mild weather you might be able to turn it down as low as 50°. If you have a boiler with a hot water cylinder, you can turn it down to 65 degrees. Don't set it any lower otherwise the boiler won't be able to heat your water to a safe temperature. After lowering the flow temperature, your boiler will take longer to heat your home and your hot water (if you have a cylinder). You should set your boiler to come on earlier to give it more time to work. Turning down your boiler thermostat may not be suitable for all homes, especially if your home is already underheated, or certain heating system types. If your home feels cold or struggles to reach a comfortable temperature, consider other energy saving measures instead.

Day 3 – Keep your heating set at the lowest comfortable temperature.

Setting a higher temperature on your room thermostat doesn't make your home warm up any faster but it would waste energy. Instead, set your heating to come on earlier so it has longer to work. This uses less energy than turning up the thermostat. A comfortable temperature is typically 18-21 degrees.

Day 4 – Book in a boiler service.

The last thing you want is for your boiler to break down in a cold snap. Get

a service booked in with a GAS SAFE engineer if you haven't already had a service this year.

Day 5 - Don't rely on portable electric heaters

Portable electric heaters are best for short-term use, not as a replacement for your whole heating system. If you want to heat a single room, it's usually cheaper to use your central heating and adjust the thermostat and thermostatic radiator valves.

Look out next time for tips to save energy in the kitchen.

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Recycle your old jewellery and Banknotes

Trade Matters will recycle your old jewellery and banknotes to help with their work.

Simply pop any used jewellery, broken or intact along with unwanted old banknotes and foreign currency inside an envelope and download a freepost label from their website - www.transform-trade.org

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Give a Car

Over 90 used cars have been given to Transform Trade via Giveacar, who turn your unwanted vehicle into a donation.

Depending on the condition, the car is auctioned or scrapped, and the proceeds fund their work - so if you do have an old vehicle you no longer want, take a look at www.transform-trade.org/give-differently

Rethink - Be mindful of your consumption, your relationship with

“things” and your relationship with the Earth.



Make a simple bug hotel

With half-term not far away why not make a bug hotel with your family. Simply collect some empty tinned beans or tinned tomato cans, wash them out well. Go for a walk and collect some pine cones, sticks etc. If you have a bamboo cane spare that can be cut into lengths to fit the cans. Fill the cans with the pine cones, sticks, pieces of rolled up cardboard and the cut up bamboo cane and put them stacked in a sheltered spot in the garden. These make ideal homes for bugs and insects.

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DBC Freecycle

Don't forget if you have anything that you need to get rid of we can always advertise it here on DBC Freecycle.

“One man's trash is another man's treasure!”

Get in touch with me with a photo and details of the items you want to include.