

October-November 2025

## Welcome to our Newsletter.

For more information about the Dronfield Baptist Eco Church Group contact – [margaret.keen@talk21.com](mailto:margaret.keen@talk21.com)

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## Outing to RSPB Old Moor

The Eco Church Group organised an outing to RSPB Old Moor Reserve in the Dearne Valley on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> August. Eight adults and 2 children enjoyed a lovely day. The weather was very warm and sunny until mid-afternoon when there were a few spots of rain as we had just decided to head home.

We saw a good range of species with the highlights being Great White Egret, Lapwing, Snipe and Curlew along with the Tree Sparrows that Old Moor is noted for. There were the usual Robins, Great Tits, Blue Tits and Gold Finches but it was good to see such a wide variety despite water levels being very low as a result of all the very hot, dry weather.

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## Peat Belongs in Bogs, Not Bags



Peat extraction for gardening and growing is one of the biggest treats to our peatlands. It strips away habitats, weakens nature's ability to store carbon, and fuels the climate crisis.

Targets to phase out peat use were first introduced in 2011, but little progress has been made.

In 2021, UK Government announced a ban on bagged peat compost, yet no legislation is in place, and plans to phase out sales by 2025 have been dropped.

Without urgent action peatlands will continue to degrade, releasing carbon and harming wildlife.

**What can you do:** choose **peat-free compost** for your garden. Every bag makes a difference. By leaving peat in the ground, you're helping wildlife, fighting climate change, and keeping carbon locked safely away.

(Derbyshire Wildlife Trust)

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## Celebrating World Cleanup Day 2025

A recent milestone for our oceans – 47 tons of waste removed in one month!

In June 2025, the Global Ocean Cleanup united 54 cleanups across 25 countries bringing together almost 2,000 volunteers. Together they removed 47.4 tons of marine debris while restoring 53 miles of coastline. That's millions of pieces of waste no longer

polluting turtle nesting beaches, mangroves, coral reefs or estuaries. It's a powerful reminder that real change is happening right now.

The impact didn't stop at the coast. Each cleanup helped protect wildlife, supported local communities and prevented plastic from breaking down into microplastics. From Portugal's Sado Estuary to beaches in Asia and the Americas, every action added up to something much bigger. And while cleanups matter, the everyday choices we make matter just as much. By choosing reusable over disposable, compostable over plastic, and thoughtful alternatives over single-use, we're stopping waste from reaching the ocean in the first place. Together, we're reducing the need for future clean-ups before they even begin.

This is the kind of progress we love to celebrate. It proves that when people act locally, the ripple effect can reach across the whole planet. Every volunteer, every eco choice, every bag of rubbish collected, every stretch of coastline restored moves us closer to oceans free from plastic.

(LIVE COCO - For the Conscious Consumer)

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## Green Christian Online Workshops

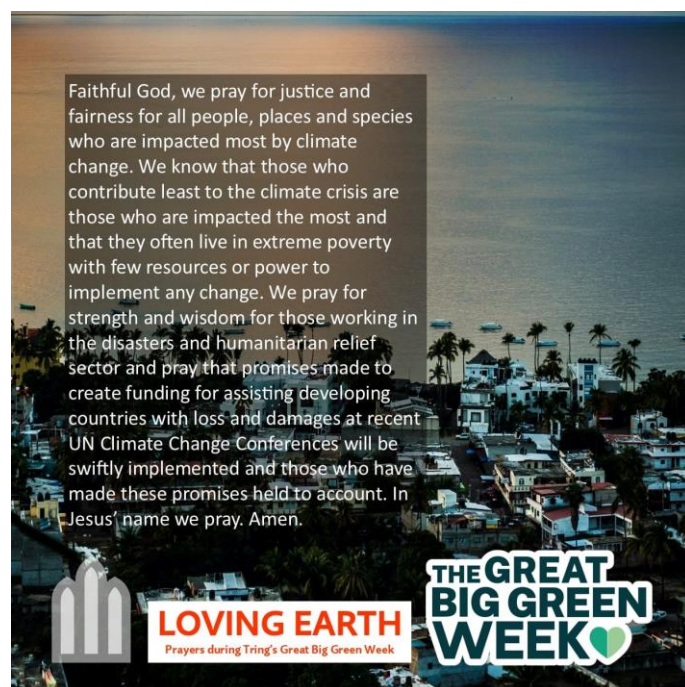
Challenging Ourselves – How has Christianity Contributed to Ecological Crisis?

Joy is Enough talk. Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> October at 7.00-8.15pm. By Mike Mullins

Mike is a leadership coach and spiritual retreat facilitator. He has run retreats on a range of themes. Inspired by his liberal Catholic faith he has a deep interest in interfaith dialogue. He believes that we can all learn from each other if we meet in a spirit of humble enquiry, hunger for truth and compassion for all life.

You can register for this online event at [www.greenchristian.org.uk](http://www.greenchristian.org.uk)

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Creation care prayer from High Street Baptist Church, Tring, Hertfordshire.

(A Rocha Eco Church website)

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