

June-July 2026

Welcome to our Newsletter.

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

I am sure your garden is now bursting into flower, but are you helping the pollinators with what you are growing? There are 270 species of bees in the UK and Which recommend growing the following plants to help them.

It is important to try to provide pollen and nectar for as many months of the year as possible, so we've organised the following list by the times of the year the plants bloom.

Late Spring to Summer:

Foxglove, Delphinium, Heuchera, Lavender, Hardy salvia, Hardy geranium. Many of these plants can be purchased from your local garden centre now, just one or two would help the bees.

Mid-summer:

Hebe, Deciduous agapanthus, Annual poppies. There is still time to sow some poppy seeds in your garden.

Summer to autumn/first frosts:

Asters, Japanese anemone, dahlia, Echinacea, Tender Salvia.

Plants for early bumblebees:

Bumblebees are some of the earliest pollinators to emerge, flying at low temperatures when many other insects don't. Most bumblebees will find food wherever they can so, although native flowers are always best, you don't need to plant anything specific. However in early spring there are few things that flower and can provide welcome pollen for these early flying visitors. These garden plants are most useful for helping them:

Primrose, Hellebore, Hyacinth, Crocus.

PLEASE KEEP THIS INFORMATION FOR FUTURE REFERENCE AS WE PROGRESS THROUGH THE SEASONS.

If you want to help bees even more then why not make a solitary bee nest.



Here is a simple way to make a solitary bees nest. It's a bit late for this year but make one now and put it out ready for next year.

You will need:

A block of untreated softwood measuring approx. 50mm x 100mm x 200mm

Drill

Drill bits to create holes measuring 10mm, 8mm, 6mm, and 4mm in diameter
Garden string for hanging.

Method:

Drill a selection of holes of varying diameter between 4mm and 10mm in the face of the softwood block. The depth of the holes doesn't matter, just make sure you don't drill all the way through the block.

Insert a metal hook in the top of the block and attach a suitable length of garden string.

Hang at approximately head height in a sunny spot in early March.

Eat The Seasons

We are now coming into the bumper season for locally grown fruit and vegetables.

When shopping try to purchase UK produced food. Not only does this cut down on "FOOD MILES" but supports out farmers and growers. Try to eat seasonably .

Currently at their best:

Asparagus (make the most of it as it's a very short season), Jersey Royal New Potatoes, New Potatoes, Radishes, Rocket, Spinach, Spring Onions, Watercress. Don't forget Yorkshire Rhubarb too.

You could of course try growing your own. There are many things that can be

grown in containers. You don't need a big garden or an allotment.

Salad leaves, radish, spring onions are all easy to grow in pots as are tomatoes and cucumbers. If you have some larger, deeper pots you can grow carrots. Even peas and climbing beans can be grown in containers.

There is nothing like eating something you have grown yourself. It's the freshest you can get.

Some of you may remember "Second-hand September" a campaign run by Oxfam whereby people pledge not to buy any NEW clothes during September but to use second hand sources for any clothing needs. I have challenged myself to not do just one month but six months (January-June). Please speak to me and ask how I am doing over the next few months.

Margaret

DRONFIELD BAPTIST CHURCH FREECYCLE

Don't forget to make use of the freecycle facility.

If you have something that you no longer have a use for and are happy to give away send me a photo, your contact details and details of the item and I will advertise it here.

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