“We did it!”

The Skinners report on their Three Peaks challenge

We’ve wanted to do something for the Little Roo Neonatal Fund for some time and climbing three mountains in three days seemed an appropriate challenge to make a meaningful difference and give something back. We organised our own accommodation and schedule: Snowdon, then Scafell Pike and Ben Nevis.



Snowdon was meant to be the easiest and after getting up at 6am, we were ready and motivated to tackle the first peak. The weather, however, was not on our side and we reached the top completely soaked. It did mean that we didn’t have to queue and we came back down in sunshine, followed by a four-hour drive to our next destination.

Again, a 6am start to climb Scafell Pike which we knew was not going to be straightforward as we had climbed it two years ago. However, amazing views, beautiful weather and determination helped us along the way as we also needed to drive another five and a half hours to Fort William.

Yet another 6am start and the highest mountain so far. We were tired, but knew that we just needed to get this one done. Most of the mountain was hidden in thick fog which was a blessing in disguise as we couldn’t see how far we had to go. We were not particularly fast, but motivated each other and after eight hours, we reached the Visitor Centre at Ben Nevis again and felt such a sense of achievement that we had managed to complete what we had set out to do!

Climbing all three mountains was tough but an amazing experience to complete as a family, motivating each other throughout. Although pushed to our limits at times, it was only for a short time compared to the uncertainty and fear you experience as a parent when you see your little one in hospital on a daily basis for however long just trying to be strong and doing the best you can.

Philippians 4:13 seems to summarise it quite well: ‘I can do all this through him who gives me strength.’

Thank you to everyone who has supported us and donated already. Your generosity will directly impact the lives of premature babies and their families, ensuring they receive the best possible start in life. *Martyn, Kathleen and Clara*

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but rather caring for it as a farmer cares for the soil; that we should put back more than we take out; that we need to leave this world in a better state than when we first arrived on it. And that would be even better!

I just hope and pray that we can reverse the effects of our tardiness and indeed leave this world knowing that we have done everything we could to make it better. And God will see that it is good.

Saint Peter and Saint Paul Edenbridge

Harvest 2026

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A ROCHA GOLD AWARD WINNER 2025 ECO CHURCH

Thy will be done on earth. . .

Hilary Morgan considers our care of God’s planet

In the beginning we had fossil fuel. It pumped out toxic gases and carbon dioxide into the atmosphere. I am ancient enough that when I lived on the outskirts of London in Hayes, Middlesex, by the Grand Union Canal, I would go to school in the smog – a combination of fog and smoke – and God, no doubt, looked at it and saw that it was not good.



But times move on, people realised the smog needed to be dealt with and smokeless zones were created. That was all right in London and the south but I know that up north in Sunderland where I was at college it was just dreadful! I tried to dry some washing and when I took it indoors it was dirtier than when I had put it out! It was not good!

I want to say times have moved on but really, we did very little about improving our atmosphere until the 1970s when finally young people began to see the writing on the wall and attitudes began to change. Now that’s a bit better!

As Christians, we should all be concerned about our environment. We are told very clearly that we need to take care of God’s planet. Our Bibles have for hundreds of years translated the original text of Genesis as that we should dominate the creatures and subdue the earth as if we were the top of the pile. However, now it is clear that the original text spoke not about ruling over the land

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Pictures: Mary Thompson



Many thanks to all those who contributed to the recent Autumn Fair in whatever way. The event raised close to £2,800. The next fundraising events for your diary are the ***Coffee Morning and Bulb Sale, 10am to 12 noon on 10 October*** *and the* ***Winter Fair, 10.30am to 12.30pm on 28 November****.*

Changing times – wet or dry?

The Eco Group advises on preparing ahead for drought

Precious rain at last. Thank you, Lord. Next year could be hotter than this but a wet winter is forecast so we need to save as much water as possible for next year.

We need to install lots of water butts – linked if possible – and do this in good time for the rainy season. Check seals on taps and linking pipes so water doesn't escape. And if you are relaying the patio, consider installing a water collection tank beneath it.

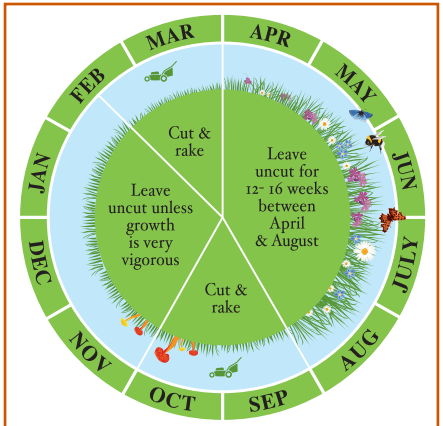
When water is scarce we need to save every drop. Water from washing vegetables, even ourselves, can be reused to water plants. If it's hot leave it to cool. If you run the tap or shower for warm water, run the clean excess into a bucket to reuse for any purpose. Water from your bath or dishes can be used on plants occasionally but not always on the same one to prevent build up of the soaps. And remember to water in the evening to avoid losses due to evaporation.

Mulch is useful; it prevents evaporation and keeps weeds from growing, as well as giving the birds a place to hunt for food. It is worth having a compost heap just for this. Birds and animals in our gardens need water every day, left in a shady spot to keep it cool.

Plants in pots and hanging baskets are early sufferers when the weather is hot. Using water saved indoors is ideal and a layer of pebbles on top of the pots helps conserve moisture.

Water is so important for our existence and survival. Remember to stay hydrated yourself but, at the end of the day, if your bottle or flask is not quite empty, add the water to your collection regime rather than pouring it away.

Most of all, enjoy the variety of our beautiful environment. Even the smallest efforts to nurture and protect it will make a difference, and small contributions add together to a sizeable, bankable total.



Graphic to illustrate grass management by permission of Caring for God's Acre

This is how we manage the grass in the wildlife area and its linked corridor. Short grass in autumn and winter lets rain in and allows wild flowers to establish. By end of February we stop cutting to let daffodils grow, then the grass grows long to make a habitat for insects and small mammals which start their breeding season in March. With hotter drier summers we are starting to cut a little earlier because long grass is a possible fire risk.





In August Eden Christian Trust took a group of 12 young people and six adults to the annual Satellites Youth festival. This is organised by Youthscape and takes place at the Bath & West showground in Shepton Mallet. The week was a huge success with over 5,500 young people and leaders present, and attracting some of the top speakers in the UK and beyond. Edenbridge young people enjoyed an amazing time of camping, worship, ministry and teaching as well some great activities and socialising with likeminded youngsters. We already have young people keen to sign up for next year's event! If you would like to sponsor a child for the 2027 camp, who otherwise can't afford to come, do please get in touch. ***Anthony Shipwright*** *(email: ect.youthworker@gmail.com)*

Getting to know...

Bob Dell



I have lived in Edenbridge for 18 years but started to come to the church about two years ago. Retiring from my career as a design engineer gave me more time to think things through and remember my church upbringing in Addiscombe.

My wife Joy and I have four children in total who live busy lives, apart from Eliot, my youngest son with special needs, who Joy and I visit regularly in Horley.

I play walking cricket in Lingfield which is really good and Joy and I are Crystal Palace season ticket holders. I was going to have a trial for them once but went on a school trip instead! I have since played in goal at a semi pro level.

I was in the Forge Singers for ten years, playing such roles as a dame or Dracula, but for the last four I have been singing with the **Croydon Male Voice choir**. I was inspired to join them when we went to one of their concerts in Rochester Cathedral. I am so pleased that we shall be **performing in the church on 14 November** (*details to follow*). And I shall be playing a chromatic harmonica piece as one of the acts between the singing. I've been a bit of a closet player up till now so will be feeling rather nervous!