



St Barnabas

# Green Matters Summer 2026



Welcome to the summer edition of Green Matters. An occasional newsletter helping us care and celebrate God's good world.

**Even the sparrow has found a home, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may have her young— a place near your altar, LORD Almighty, my King and my God.**

Psalm 84:3

Swallows swooping low over the fields and swifts dancing in the sky are a familiar sight in the summer months. And as this photo shows you don't have to venture far to enjoy God's wonderful world. The otter was spotted in the Albert Park lake.

**Father God - Creator of sun, soil, and sea, we thank you for the vibrant, bustling life of summer.  
As the days grow long and the world is filled with warmth, open our eyes to the delicate beauty of our common home. Amen**

### Celebrating and Enjoying God's Good World

Summer is a great time to get out and about. And there is much we can see and do locally.



Tees Valley Wildlife Trust works to protect and restore wildlife across Teesside helping to make the Tees Valley a better place for nature and for people.

As part of the UK-wide network of 47 Wildlife Trusts, Tees Valley Wildlife Trust has spent more than 40 years caring for wild places, standing up for wildlife and helping people connect with the natural world. The Trust manages 15 nature reserves and supports landowners and partners to look after many more sites across the area.

This work is securing the future of important habitats and species that might otherwise be lost.

For free events for all ages including volunteering opportunities visit

<https://www.teeswildlife.org/get-involved>

### Get Involved!

Plastic Free July™ is a shared global movement that helps millions of people reduce plastic waste through simple, everyday choices and become part of the solution to plastic pollution.

To find out more see <https://www.plasticfreejuly.org/>



Photo by: David Appleyard





Climate Stewards is part of the A Rocha family of organisations caring for God's creation around the world.

They are passionate about helping people to calculate, cut and compensate for their carbon footprint, while supporting our global neighbours to adapt to the impacts of climate change.

For more information

<https://climatestewards.org/about-us/>

**\*REPAIR CAFÉ ALSO ON 12<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER \***

## MIDDLESBROUGH REPAIR CAFE



**10am-1pm**

**11th July 2026**

**Last repair accepted at 12.00 pm**

Friends of the Earth Middlesbrough, Redcar & Stockton

**BROKEN?  
Don't want to send it to landfill?  
WE CAN HELP!**

We love a challenge — whether it's a ripped seam, a wobbly chair, a tablet that won't charge, or anything else that needs a bit of care and attention!

Our team of volunteer fixers want to prevent waste and encourage repair. You can even enjoy a hot drink and a slice of cake... that's the cafe part!

Volunteers needed!  
Whether you love fixing, organising, or making a great cuppa — there's a place for you on our friendly team.

**The Friends Meeting House  
131 Cambridge Rd, Middlesbrough TS5 5HL  
DONATIONS WELCOME**

## Environmentally Friendly Cleaning Solutions

Members of the Eco Group have been testing some home made environmentally friendly cleaning solutions! We can recommend Nancy Birtwhistle's Pure Magic Loo Cleaner and Basic Magic General Cleaner from her book Clean Magic.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1oMYXRg5uaU>.

Plus, a great cleaner for removing green algae from wooden decking:

1 part white vinegar to 1 part water plus a generous squeeze of washing up liquid.

Apply to wood and leave for no more than 15 minutes. Remove algae with a stiff brush then rinse decking thoroughly with water.



***Creator God who breathed this world into being,  
who is discernible within the harmony of nature,  
the perfection of a butterfly's wing,  
the grandeur of a mountain range,  
the soaring eagle and humming bird,  
thank you for this world which you have created.***

***Thank you for summer sun, which reminds us that your creative breath is still alive and active.***

***Thank you for the warmth of your love, sustaining our world. Amen***

Thanks to our hard working Gardening Team and to Alison Philbey for sharing some of her lovely photographs

