

Join us from across Hitchin in making ... Eco-Bricks!

A 2-litre drinks bottle stuffed full of the unrecyclable plastic that is all around us may seem an unlikely way to make a statement about seeking a more sustainable way of life, but we at Walsworth Road Baptist Church, Hitchin believe it really can make a difference. And we invite anyone and everyone to join us, either in our local project or in your own community, if you live somewhere different! It's already happening on a big scale in other countries, but the UK seems a bit slow to take it up. It's time for us here to get making Eco-Bricks!



And all you need to do – and some of us have started already - is captured in the opening sentence! Take a clean and dry 2-litre drinks bottle, and try and fill it with at least 350-400g (12-14oz) of the soft plastic films, bags and packaging that are not currently recyclable. Please ensure that the plastic itself is dry and as clean as possible (and we suggest that really mucky plastic isn't actually suitable for this!), and you are encouraged to use a piece of dowel rod, or even a wooden spoon handle, to push the plastic into the bottle to pack it as densely as possible. Top tip – ensure that the first plastic in your bottle is really squishy to fill in the 'feet' of the bottle!



When your bottle is as full as it can be, put the lid on tightly, and please write the approx. weight in Sharpie pen, and bring it – or indeed bring all the eco-bricks you have made and collected with friends - along to **Walsworth Road Baptist Church, Hitchin (SG4 9SP)** and do this at the latest by the end of June 2019. We will then be delighted to include them in a public event in July. Please note the church is open every Saturday morning between 10 and 12, as well of course as for our morning services every Sunday!

What are we doing in July?

We are really hoping to receive loads of eco-bricks in order to make a public statement about the need to take better care of the limited resources of our planet, and especially about reducing the impact on the environment of our disposing of plastic to create. We don't like seeing the rubbish caught in bushes on local roads, and we lament the tons that end up in the ocean. Watch this space for more details of the date.

What happens to them after July?

We have already identified – and visited - a sustainable lifestyle project where donations of eco-bricks are welcomed, and we plan to give them all to these good people, if we can't identify a more local project. And they, for the record, are currently planning to build eco-brick accommodation for the animals on their small-holding.

Why is a church doing this anyway?

Our local church family have long demonstrated a concern for the gift of our fragile creation, as part of living out our Christian faith. We were collecting plastic bottles for recycling long before the kerbside collection was introduced, and we encouraged our local council to start that collection. We have engaged in various campaigns and projects previously including making a connection with the amazing Clean Seas Cragen project in Wales last summer, but we haven't tried anything on such a town-wide scale! As well as being a critical issue for us all to engage with, surely too it is a simple project that anyone and everyone can recognise as worth supporting – and we hope that you will get involved with us in the next few months.



We at WRBC are also celebrating our 150th anniversary in 2019, and whilst it's not quite been one of the celebratory events that we have been planning, yet creating and collecting eco-bricks does have a significant legacy feel to it, as well as being such a good opportunity to bring people of all outlooks together from across our town.

Talk to us at Ecobricks@wrbchitchin.org.uk or engage with us on social media!