Eco News – September 2026

September is the season of Creation. Centuries before Jesus was born, Ezekial wrote of a time when 'swarms of living creatures will live wherever the river flows' and 'fruit trees of all kinds will grow on both banks of the river'. This year's Season of Creation (1 September-4 October) is rooted in Ezekiel 47:9 and 12 and Denominations across the world are calling on Christians to become 'part of God's river, joining creation's healing'.

The summer of 2026 has surely brought home to all of us just how precious a resource our water is and how we must protect it. In July, Histon was declared the driest place in England (*Met office – data collected by NIAB – 194mm rain in first 6 months of the year*).and a wildfire on Dunwich Heath spread so rapidly due to the extremely dry conditions that almost the entire heath, along with its very special wildlife habitat, has been destroyed. Dunwich heath is a place I have visited multiple times every year for most of my life and here we witness the paradox of wildfires; largely caused by lack of water and yet extinguished by firefighters using that very same water.

Drought, spiralling water use and increased populations, all point towards a severe water shortage in the UK within 20 years. Water scarcity isn't just about having less water coming out of our taps though, it's about the impact on rivers, wildlife, communities, and the future resilience of our country. Of course, there are many large scale and structural things that need adjusting, but individual use will also need to be addressed. Water leaks or no water leaks, there will not be enough to go round. Apparently, our individual water use has almost doubled since the mid-1980s and is now about 140litres/day. A new campaign, **Lets save water** has just been launched, bringing together people, businesses and the water industry. Their suggestion is that if every person in the country could save 28 litres (about 2 bucket fulls) in England or 38 litres (3 buckets) in Wales per person, per day, it could ensure there's enough water for generations to come – Their press release is also well worth reading.

- https://letssavewater.com/about
- Press Release – (open the 'downloads menu' on the above webpage.

Keeping in mind that wonderful prophecy that Ezekial had, of abundant life wherever the water flows, how can you save your 2 bucket fulls? I was surprised to find that putting a bucket under the shower, to catch the water as it warms up to the right temperature, yielded at least half a bucket in one go, though obviously I then need to use this somewhere else (even when I'm not watering my garden) to make it work.