

Care for Creation

acting together for the environment

Churchyard opportunities
for wildlife and for mission

Diocese of Oxford





St Leonard's Eynsham



St Bartholomew's, Yarnton



St Mary's, Kidlington



St Leonard's Eynsham



St Bartholomew's, Yarnton

Diocese of Oxford Environmental Action Programme

Working on the Diocese's net zero carbon and wider environmental commitments.

We share resources on a variety of pathways for action such as:

- Eco Church award scheme
- Energy Audit programme
- Greenshoots Network
- Gathering of existing resources – EcoHub
- Creating resources
- Wilder Churches with BBOWT



Churchyards often form valuable “stepping-stone” islands for wildlife, providing both habitats to live in and corridors for movement through urban or agricultural landscapes. Here are some ways we can make them even more valuable to wildlife...

What your church can do – land

Hedgerows and old trees are valuable habitats for bats, birds and small mammals

Regularly updated interpretation boards inform visitors about the wildlife and habitat management

Churches often provide much needed roosting habitat for bats and nesting holes for swifts

Regularly mowing both paths and areas with recent burials allows good access

A compost heap and patches of nettles can be tucked away to provide more wildlife habitats

There are 600 or so lichens found in churchyards in lowland England and half of these are very rare

Reducing the number of cuts allows wildflowers to grow and set seed

Stone walls provide a habitat for mosses, lichens and ferns and homes for numerous animals

Log piles can shelter invertebrates, small mammals, reptiles and amphibians



Churchyard Scavenger Hunt



Churchyard nature hunt

Our churchyards are rich with biodiversity, what can you find?
Keep score and fill in the table on the reverse.

- 1 Listen, how many birds can you see & hear? _____
- 2 How many types of plant can you see? _____
- 3 Is there a place to sit? _____
- 4 How many invertebrates can you see? _____
- 5 How many trees are there? _____
- 6 Can you find a compost bin/heap? _____
- 7 Is there a pond? _____
- 8 Can you see a birdfeeder or birdbox? _____
- 9 Is there a vegetable patch? _____
- 10 Are there signs of bats? _____
- 11 Are there lichen, mosses or ferns growing on a wall? _____

oxford.anglican.org/environment

Share your nature hunt finds with us on social media @DioceseofOxford

DIOCESE of OXFORD

[Parish Resource Pack](#)



Churches Count On Nature



WILDLIFE DISCOVERY
for children and families

Fancy an opportunity to get closer to nature with your family?
Come along to St Leonard's churchyard, Wallingford (OX10 0HA)
No parking

Discover our nature trail and craft activities

FREE event

Saturday 11 June 2022
1.30 pm to 4 pm

Email: stmarychildren2@gmail.com
wallingford.wildlife@gmail.com

St Mary's & St Leonard's Wallingford
open to God, open to all

Wildlife Wallingford
Creating our Nature

The poster features a green background with white text and colorful illustrations of a mushroom, a snail, a bee, a fish, and a flower. Logos for 'Wildlife Wallingford' and 'Creating our Nature' are at the bottom.



[Caring for God's Acre Love your burial ground week](#)



Village Wildlife Day

Bourtons Wildlife Day
All Saints Church

Join us for the launch of the **Wildlife Friendly Community** project and two talks in the church - one on fungi, and one by ecologist and author **Hugh Warwick** on hedgehogs.

- Art activities for children •
- Build a 'dead hedge' •
- Picnic in the churchyard •
- Hedgehog map •

There'll also be the opportunity to learn about composting, plants for pollinators, wildflower meadows, and hedgehog care, as well as the history of All Saints.

Tea, coffee & cakes available.
Everyone welcome.

Saturday 25th June: 11am-3pm



St Peter's Aylesbury Community Garden (1)

St Peter's purpose is to 'bring wholeness and hope to the people around us through encountering Jesus'.

The Quarrendon community's needs are centred around its markers of deprivation and poverty, with the most prevalent (within the bottom 10% of the country) in:

- Health & Wellbeing
- Loneliness & Isolation
- Education & Skills
- Poverty affecting older people and children



St Peter's Aylesbury Community Garden (2)



Creativity, Worship & Fun Ideas

- QR Codes - helping people to cook and eat healthily
- Use the Seasons (eg Advent)
- Recycling & Reclamation (Carpet tiles, pallets, compostable cups, etc)
- Paint Parties (Wellness, Outreach)

www.stpa.life/community-garden/



Chinnor Churches Go Wild!

The five churches in the [Chinnor Churches Go Wild!](#) project have received support from the Chiltern Conservation Board and BBOWT's Rough Around the Edges project and are an A Rocha UK Partner in Action.

Their aims are:

- to understand the habitats and wildlife in each churchyard
- to improve them for the benefit of wildlife and the local community
- to target at least one declining or threatened species for specific action
- to increase the number of people engaging in nature & the depth of engagement



Churchyard wildlife survey opportunities

- [Churches Count on Nature](#)
- [Caring for God's Acre](#) species recording
- Butterfly Conservation, [Upper Thames Branch](#)
- [Bats In Churches](#)
- Plantlife [Every Flower Counts](#)
- RSPB [Big Garden Birdwatch](#)
- [British Lichen Society churchyard survey](#)
- Existing churchyard species records from TVERC via [NBN Gateway](#) or [BMKERC](#)





Discussion Questions

What one action do you feel you could take with your church?

What would be the ways it would fit with the wider mission of your church?

What obstacles might you come across and how might you tackle them?

What resources / areas of information would be useful to your church?

