

News from the Ecochurch Team: Making space for wildlife and people



In Britain as a whole, the number of insects has declined dramatically and everyone is encouraged to do what they can to boost numbers by providing plants accessible to nectar feeders and those which are food for insects at some stage in their life cycle. A shortage of insects impacts on other species which depend on them for food. In addition, there is a need to provide roosting and nesting places for birds and some places for small mammals, amphibians and reptiles to shelter.

The Ecochurch and gardening teams, in consultation with the church wardens, are working to balance the needs of people for a pleasant area to congregate and reflect throughout the year with those of wildlife with trees and wilder areas.



Early in the year snowdrops were in profusion around the log circle and around the back of the hall and planted spring bulbs added colour

to the grass at the front of the church.

Primroses flowered in March and bluebells can be seen against the wall and between the graves in the south east corner of the churchyard. Early May is a good time to visit woods to see bluebells.



Find out more at: www.wildlifebcn.org/bluebells.



In several areas including a strip by the church wall and near the priest's door colourful displays of blue flowered green alkanet, comfrey with white flowers and yellow flowered greater celandine are starting to appear, all of which are popular with bees and other insects.

A few areas mainly in amongst old gravestones are left wild with nettles as these are the food plant of the caterpillars of butterflies including small tortoiseshell and peacock shown here.



The gaps under old gravestones provide hiding places for voles and other small mammals, amphibians and reptiles as well as the invertebrates many of them feed on. In addition the mature trees in the churchyard are ideal nesting and roosting sites for birds.

The Church of England, the Church in Wales and A Rocha UK are encouraging churches like ours to celebrate “Love your Burial Grounds Week” between 3rd and 11th June and take part in “Churches Count on Nature” to find out what is living in our churchyard. During that week there will be an opportunity to explore parts of the churchyard looking for some of the smaller inhabitants. We would also like you to take photos of what you see in the churchyard. More details to follow.

You too can help wildlife in your garden by planting nectar rich plants and providing cover for small animals, perhaps with a logpile. You could also take part in Plantlife’s “No Mow May” and see what wild plants come up in your lawn. A mown border round the patch you leave shows it is an experiment rather than you being lazy. Find out more at www.plantlife.org.uk/campaigns/nomowmay

Photos: Bee on green alkanet – Gerry Metcalfe, others Terry or Helen Moore



The Church of England
Diocese of Ely

Eco Networking Lunch

Gather, Connect, Support

Meet together with others from the local area to share skills, ideas and contacts to help us all on our eco journeys.

St Michaels Church,
Mace Road, Stanground, PE2 8RQ
Tuesday 23rd May, 12noon-2.00pm
Lunch provided - donations appreciated.
RSVP: carolavery131@gmail.com

The poster features a green background with a stylized globe at the bottom, surrounded by various green leaves and small white and yellow flowers. The text is arranged in a clear, readable layout, with the title in large, bold letters and the details in smaller text.