

What is Churches Count on Nature Week?



This June, people are invited to discover the wildlife in their local churchyard and record the species they find. Data will be sent to the [National Biodiversity Network \(NBN\)](#), a nationwide database of UK wildlife. Churches Count on Nature is promoted by *Caring for God's Acre*, *A Rocha UK*, the *Church of England* and the *Church in Wales*.

There are NO Biodiversity Network records for our churchyard — you can help change that!

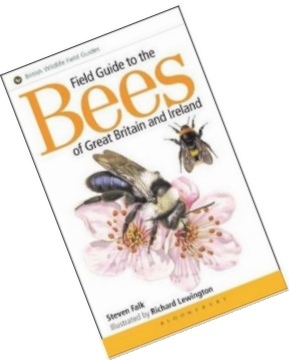
Any time during the week from **5 through 13 June**, please visit Holy Trinity churchyard—bring your curiosity, magnifying glass, camera, field guides, Google search on your phone, etc.

Holy Trinity churchyard has been a last resting place since 1845 and before that it was the village green. Its trees, grasses and wildflowers were recorded in the 1980s by local naturalists Roy Maycock and Aaron Wood.



We want to find out **which of those species are still here**, and if new ones have arrived. Roy and Aaron's list — updated and annotated — is available on Holy Trinity's website and will be at the back of the church, so you will have a head start on what to look for. **We're also hoping to add animal species**, such as the yellow meadow ant which was seen this spring — plus **moss or lichens**, which weren't recorded in the 1980s.

Try to identify some of the species you see — flowers, grass, trees, moss, lichens, insects, worms, snails, birds or mammals. Around the railings, at the base of trees, along the church walls, and anywhere mowing is difficult are all good places to spot plants and wildlife. **It's up to you how much time you spend** - if you only identify a single species or send us a photo of something you couldn't ID, we'd love to see it!



Thank you for remembering to be respectful and careful around the graves, which may be unstable, and beware of hidden roots and uneven ground. Some plants can be toxic, e.g. Yew berries; please don't taste or pick anything, just look carefully and take notes and pictures - thank you!

Please send us your findings at holytrinity.nature@gmail.com:

- **What you saw** - If you know the Latin name, include it, otherwise just the English name is fine.
- **When you saw it** - date please — time of day isn't needed

Photos please!

We'd also love to see your favourite photo of a species you saw at Holy Trinity, or a 'mystery' photo of something you saw there but could not identify. We will publish as many as we can on Holy Trinity's Facebook page and maybe someone else can ID them.



What will we do with the information?

Once we have a final list we will collate and send the records to *Caring for God's Acre*, who will upload them to the National Biodiversity Network. Recording species onto the NBN database is a first step towards being able to protect them. The collated information allows national agencies to know what precious species are located where in the country. It helps funding applications. And the information flows through to the church's record at <https://burialgrounds.nbnatlas.org/>

More info can be found on the video 'Why Record' at <https://www.caringforgodsacre.org.uk/resources/films/>

