

LOVE YOUR
BURIAL
GROUND
WEEK



CHURCHES
COUNT ON
Nature

Diocesan Fact Sheet

www.caringforgodsacre.org.uk



Please read below to find out all you need to know about Caring for God's Acre annual celebration of nature and heritage in churchyards.

Q&A

What is Love your Burial Ground Week/ Churches Count on Nature 2025?

Love your Burial Ground Week/Churches Count on Nature 2025 is a country-wide initiative encouraging formal and informal groups and individuals to come together to celebrate and record the biodiversity to be found in their local burial grounds.

When does it happen?

The second week of June. In 2025 the dates are Saturday 7th June to Sunday 15th June. This covers two weekends to maximise the opportunities for people to get involved.

Who can get involved?

Anyone can get involved! Groups can be as small or large as you wish and might be run by an enthusiastic individual, small informal groups of friends, wildlife groups, PCCs or schools and youth groups.

Experts enjoy getting involved and a group might know of a local expert who is willing to share their expertise with enthusiastic amateurs. Many first-time nature spotters particularly enjoy learning new skills and seeing their churchyard with new eyes. Using the iNaturalist app helps anyone to identify species and submit their records on the Beautiful Burial Ground project within the app.

What activity should we do?

This can be whatever you think will fit in with your own community and churchyard. Our main focus is spotting the nature to be found in these special sites and recording it with the easy-to-use iNaturalist app, but past events have ranged from nature counts to historic talks and from prayer walks to picnics. Family events are particularly successful.

How can people get involved?

It's simple! Just decide what you want to do and register your event by visiting Love your Burial Ground Week registration 2025. Once you have registered your event will be added to the listing and to the map on our website.





How do we record the nature that we spot?

We strongly recommend that you use the iNaturalist app, which is fun and easy to use. By joining the Beautiful Burial Grounds project within the app and taking a photograph, you will be guided towards identifying what you have found, and this finding is then logged as a record.

If you need to use pen and paper, remember the four Ws: what you saw, where you saw it, when (the date) and who (your name). You can email your list to wildlife@cfga.org.uk or post it to us at Office 9, Business Development Centre, Craven Arms Business Park, Shropshire SY7 8DZ

Why register?

Registration helps us to support groups and send out resources by post. Local media look to the map of events to find activities to cover, giving churches a valuable publicity boost. Knowing how many groups take part will help secure future funding to keep this initiative going into the future.

What support is available to participants?

As well as general information that is available to everyone on our website, including how to get started with iNaturalist, Health and Safety tips and Spotters Guides, registering will give you access to branded marketing materials such as press release and poster templates, logos and social media hints. You will also receive copies of our Starter Guide to Burial Ground Heritage and Wildlife and our specially commissioned illustrated Field Studies Council Guide to Wildlife of Burial Grounds if you register before 23rd May (to allow time for postage).

What if I am working with a school or youth group who don't want to have their details listed or be added to the map?

There is a dedicated page for schools and youth groups to register an event at LYBG schools registration 2025. This page also has links to resources and ideas for activities, but information won't be shared publicly.





What are the benefits for churches taking part?

As well as being fun and bringing people into your churchyard beyond your usual congregation, taking part is a good fit for Eco Church. It also fulfils item *diii* of the Church of England Synod Motion Land and Nature (GS 2319).

What feedback have you received from previous years?

People love it! 95% of respondents to the question “How much did you enjoy taking part on a scale 1 – 5” gave an answer of 4 or 5.

It engages new people - 73% of respondents said that people from outside their church community took part. So, holding a Love your Burial Ground/Churches Count on Nature event can introduce new people to your churchyard and may encourage them to become involved in action to encourage more wildlife into your site. They also have the satisfaction of contributing to developing knowledge that can help bring the value of these special places to wider attention.

