



St Mark's Church, Holbrook
Knowing Christ and making Him known



St. Mark's Land Management Plan Summary 14.10.23

People visit St Mark's land for a variety of reasons, to celebrate weddings and baptisms, remember loved ones, enroute to preschool groups and activities in North Heath Hall, using the footpaths, enjoying a picnic or some peace and quiet. Our land is blessed with a range of valuable habitats, a wide variety of trees, shrubs, flowers, fungi and plants, offering food and shelter to a wonderful variety of wildlife. We actively environmentally manage our land and access to the precious outdoor space, which is so important to our mental health.

- Management of our church land encourages native wildlife, birds, animals and plants, with a pond, bug church, bird, bat and hedgehog boxes and bowls of rainwater.
- Wildlife feeding stations in the vicarage garden are stocked all year round.
- Plants are grown that benefit birds, hedgehogs, bees, butterflies, moths etc.
- Native wildflower areas are being created and maintained.
- Our mowing plan conserves grassland and wildlife and supports No Mow May, but access paths will be mown alongside the borders, paths and lawn edges.
- The use of harmful chemicals, pesticides, herbicides or fertilizers is avoided, apart from paths and driveways.
- We participate in responsible native tree planting schemes, following guidance from environment professionals.
- A dead hedge is maintained for wildlife, along our southern woodland boundary.
- We have ongoing wildlife, bird, animal and plant surveys.
- We grow fruit and vegetables for our community, and compost food and garden waste.
- Our community is actively encouraged to use our church land for recreation, rest, reflection and prayer, and to explore our Psalm 23 Nature Trail.
- New planting, where possible, uses native plants with simple pollen bearing flowers that insects can access, as many flowers are multi-layered with tightly packed petals.
- We use rainwater from 3 large water butts to water plants, refill wildlife bowls and top up the pond; this is better for wildlife, reducing our mains metered water consumption.
- Apart from the Garden of Remembrance, and front borders by the church layby, our borders are not too tidy, as twigs and fallen leaves provide nesting materials and shelter for birds and small creatures, including our adopted rescued hedgehogs.
- Worms drag leaves into the soil and grass, but excess leaves are cleared and composted, to keep our paths safe.
- St Mark's land is part of the [Weald to Waves](#) network, creating a 100-mile nature recovery corridor across Sussex.
- We follow guidance from the Church of England and use resources from [Caring for God's Acre](#) and [Eco Church](#).
- St Mark's is a Silver Awarded Eco Church, now Going for Gold! See more information: <https://www.stmarksholbrook.org.uk/EcoChurch>

We welcome volunteers from our church and community to help with our garden work parties, wildlife surveys and serve refreshments. We also welcome comments and feedback. For more information, please contact St Mark's Eco Church Champion ecochurch@stmarksholbrook.org.uk or the church office 01403 261380.



By taking these actions we contribute to the United Nations Sustainable Development [Goal 15, Life on Land](#). One of 17 global goals adopted by the UN in 2015 to transform our world.