

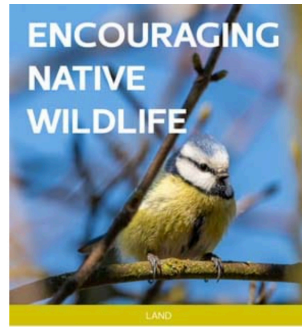
Eco Church Resources: Land



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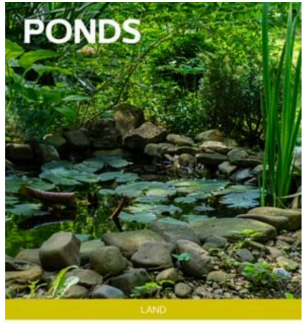
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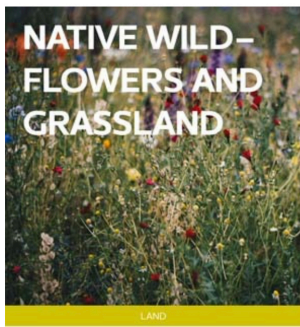
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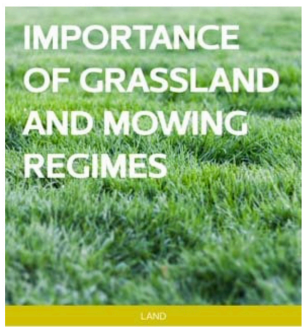
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Eco Church Resources: Land continued



AVOIDING HARMFUL CHEMICALS - ORGANIC SOLUTIONS

LAND

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Sharing our story: Importance of biodiversity

LAND CASE STUDY

Provided by Pam Martin, St John Levens, Gold Eco Church

Biodiversity is one of the buzzwords of our times and a term used to describe the enormous variety of life on earth. The web of life and the way all plants and animals are interlinked in some way.

It can also be used more specifically to refer to all the species in one region or ecosystem. The word refers to every living thing, including grass, fungi, bacteria, animals, and humans. Biodiversity is the most complex feature of our planet and is the most vital. "Without biodiversity, there is no future for humanity," says the United Nations.

The term was coined in 1985 - a contraction of "biological diversity". The large global biodiversity losses now becoming apparent represent a crisis awaiting - or quite possibly surprising - climate change.

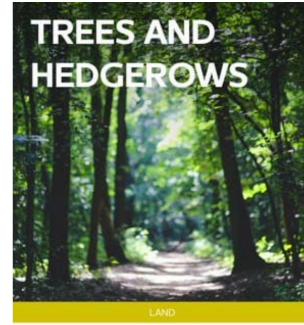
Most formally, biodiversity is comprised of several levels, starting with genes, then individual species, then communities of animals and finally entire ecosystems, such as forests or coral reefs, where the interplay with their physical environment, their regional interactions between them, Earth habitats for billions of years.

For many people living in towns and cities, wildlife is often something you watch or listen to, but the reality is that life is everywhere. The water you drink and the food you eat all ultimately rely on biodiversity.

The extinction rate of species is now thought to be about 1,000 times higher than before humans dominated the planet, which may be even higher than the losses after a great extinction event just the thousands of years ago. The sixth mass extinction in geological history has already begun.

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TREES AND HEDGEROWS

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Sharing our story: Tree planting with St Lawrence Hungerford

LAND CASE STUDY

Ms. Lisa Saunders had never planted a tree in the UK before at St Lawrence, Hungerford, all that has changed the last few months. She has over 100 young trees to plant and to her surprise, the PC members took about 100 and their impact on ongoing climate change.

Becoming convinced that Christmas, being on God's team, have a responsibility to participate in restoring creation, he and the church members use environmentally friendly practices, planting in partnership with other local community groups and the Woodland Trust's Tree Trust scheme.

They first planted 420 trees in partnership with Hungerford Primary School in November 2020. In the following 18 months, despite lockdown and some pretty terrible weather, they have planted and cared for over 2,000.

<https://www.stlawrencehungerford.org.uk/see-the-night-before-planting>

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WILDLIFE AND WILDFLOWER SURVEYS

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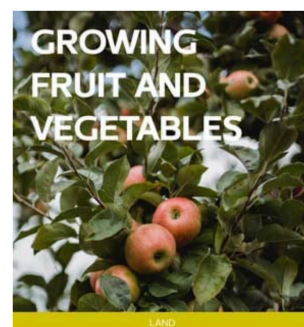


NATURE DISCOVERY DAYS

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GROWING FRUIT AND VEGETABLES

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Sharing our story: Bolton Lighthouse

LAND CASE STUDY

Setting up a community garden from scratch, God's way

The obvious intention of this community garden was to help those who are in a major need, such as that this one is the product of prayer. As a result, it's taken a lot longer to develop than a garden which has been professionally landscaped, but what has emerged is something pretty much out of this world.

"Care, you have to get down there" my friend and fellow garden volunteer Catherine recently said to me. "It's the hard part of the garden."

Residing from the Eastern side of Bolton just Catherine on the allotment once a week to plant and harvest vegetables grown in the community beds and. At the same time, share their stories and talk about God. Not only are the plants growing, the people are too. The garden is being landscaped, bit by bit.

This is the journey of Bolton Lighthouse, an end-of-terrace house, turned into a prayer-house in a blue area of the city. It's the story of how it became involved in the emergence of a vibrant community allotment, seemingly from nothing. God's word and prayer have become a vibrant reality.

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COMPOSTING

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ENCOURAGING USE OF THE CHURCH LAND

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Sharing our story: Holy Trinity Margate Community Garden

LAND CASE STUDY

Our community garden project began in late 2015 with multiple objectives:

1. First, it was a pilot of a way to offset the impact of new town housing developments taking place within our parish boundaries. We wanted to build upon the 60% of the "5 Minutes of Mission" within the Anglican Communion and encourage the development of a safe and inviting environment where they would be welcomed.
2. Secondly, the project serves the City's purpose of being service through community support and providing recreational opportunities.

The practical outworking of this was to create something that provided for rest and relaxation that nurtures mental wellbeing and that is accessible for all sections of our parish.

The volunteers created an inviting, attractive gateway to the church through a small wild woodland landscape on the edge of Margate's town. The church grounds have become a welcoming Christian environment. Volunteers are able to form lasting relationships which nurture emotional wellbeing and mental health from a Christ-centred perspective.

A group of volunteers from our congregation work alongside organisations who are involved in the scheme and they do this every day of the week.

We offer volunteers a chance to learn vital gardening skills and gain knowledge about the plant and animal species which are native to Thanet.

Peeps with complex mental health and those who need to know their life mission walk and worship. Our shared faith and strength of new life hope contributes to emotional well-being and all of our pathways offer mental access.

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CREATING A MANAGEMENT PLAN

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