

Bee and Butterfly Haven at Holy Trinity Churchyard

The churchyard grasses and flowers have grown here for centuries. Ancient burial grounds like this are some of the few remaining patches of species-rich grassland left; most of them have vanished from the surrounding countryside.



Did you know that since the early 1970s we have lost half of our wildlife? Butterflies alone have suffered a 76% decline over the past four decades.

The good news is we can help reverse these declines.

A species-rich grassland needs to be allowed to grow up and flower if it is to be of most benefit to the abundant range of wildlife associated with it. Long grass and wildflowers, essentially a meadow, is where insects live. For example bees, butterflies, beetles, crickets, grasshoppers and many other creatures feed and breed here. All insects are part of the food chain, feeding many other life forms, including birds like swifts, swallows and house martins, as well as bats. All of these creatures live in and around Buckfastleigh.

Paths will be mown at the edges and through the long grass so people can walk through and enjoy the flowers. The long grass will be cut sometime from mid July, depending on conditions. This later cut allows insects to feed on the flowers and for some flowers to set seed.

We are managing this site in collaboration with the Dartmoor community group **Moor Meadows** and the charity **Caring for God's Acre**.