

During 5-13 June 2021, over 500 churches around England and Wales took part in [Churches Count on Nature](#). This was a pilot year for a nationwide project open to all churches, run in partnership by Caring for God's Acre, A Rocha UK, the Church of England Environment Programme, and the Church in Wales.

During Churches Count on Nature, we ran a special series of webinars on different aspects of land and nature for a church audience.

Below, you can find individual recordings of all 12 webinars, or you can find the [whole playlist on YouTube here](#).

You will find help with managing trees and grasslands, introductions to ecology and biological recording, pointers for outdoor worship and Eco Church, and lots of helpful examples.

Our thanks go to all the speakers who volunteered their time to make this possible.

Churches Count on Nature logo

[Overview of topics with links to webinar recordings](#)

You can find [the whole playlist on YouTube](#), or each individual recording below.

Monday 7th June:

- Noon - **Nature and climate : twin crises, shared solutions** [watch recording](#) (starts at 2mins15)
- 4pm - **Forest Church** [watch recording](#)
- 6pm - **The National Burial Grounds Survey** [watch recording](#)

Tuesday 8th June:

- Noon - **Finding our faith in trees** [watch recording](#)
- 4pm - **5 steps to good management of your churchyard or burial ground** [watch recording](#)

Wednesday 9th June

- Noon - **Practical examples from Bristol Dioceses of churchyards managed for nature** [watch recording](#)
- 4pm - **Blooming and beautiful : flower-rich grasslands** [watch recording](#)

- 6pm - **Bats in Churches** *watch recording*

Thursday 10th June

- Noon - **Devon Living Churchyards Project** *watch recording*

- 4pm - **Eco Church : Land** *watch recording*

Friday 11th June

- Noon - **A beginner's guide to biodiversity and ecology** *watch recording*

- 4pm - **Biological recording for Churches Count on Nature and the Beautiful Burial Ground Project** *watch recording*

More info on topics and speakers

[Nature and climate - twin crises, shared solutions](#)

This webinar aims to provide an introductory context for our Count on Nature series through an overview of the twin crises we face, as a result of climate change and biodiversity loss. It will describe the scale of the challenge from global and UK perspectives and outline potential solutions to these two crises.

Our highly knowledgeable and prestigious speaker, Pete Brotherton, understands these issues from his role at Natural England and also understands the Church context, from his active involvement in his own diocese.

Speaker: **Pete Brotherton**, Director of Science, Natural England, and Diocesan Environment Officer, Peterborough Diocese.

[watch recording](#) (starts at 2min15)

[Forest Church](#)

Many people say that their more profound encounters with God occur outside, as they engage with God's creation. Forest Church takes this as the starting point for worship, gathering outdoors, with engagement with nature at the heart of our prayer.

This webinar will cover the 'why', 'what' and 'how' of Forest Church.

Speakers: **Cate Williams** is Environmental Engagement Officer for Gloucester Diocese, a Forest Church facilitator and author of the Grove booklet on Forest Church. **Rachel Summers** is the author of multiple resources including Wild Advent, Wild Lent and Wild Worship. She is a Forest School practitioner and trainer, Forest Church facilitator and pioneer ordinand.

[watch recording](#).

[National Burialgrounds Survey](#)

This webinar will describe the recent digital mapping and cataloguing of all 19,000 Anglican burial grounds, and the possibilities this creates for locating and recording the biodiversity within them for research, better protection and planning.

Speaker: **Dr Joe Elders**, Head of Church Buildings Strategy, Cathedral and Church Buildings, Church of England

[watch recording](#)

[Finding our faith in trees](#)

This webinar will talk about what the wood has to tell us : Christian symbolism of trees/Counting the rings - trees in our history/Wood, foliage, fruit - using and delighting in trees/Who belongs in the wood - native trees and incomers/Joining in the story - planting trees and wilding.

Speaker: **John Rodwell** works as a priest and ecologist together. He is co-author of Creating New Native Woodlands and chair of the Land & Biodiversity Group of Diocesan Environmental Officers.

[watch recording](#)

[5 steps to good management of your churchyard or burial ground](#)

Would creating a roadmap for the management of your burial ground be useful to you? If so this workshop will cover the five steps to planning the management of your site and encouraging others to be involved – helping you to be proactive rather than responding to problems and overdue tasks.

Learn how to produce a plan that is suitable for your site and realistic for your resources.

Speaker: **Andrea Gilpin** works for Caring for God's Acre and leads on advising people in managing their burial ground, along with developing and delivering projects. Her background is in ecology.

[watch recording](#)

[Practical examples from Bristol Diocese of churchyards managed for nature](#)

Join a panel of churches from Bristol Diocese as they show what is possible, in a typical churchyard. Veg beds, wildlife areas, and bike racks; this is a chance to learn practical tips from others in your own position.

Speaker: **Clare Fussell**, the Diocese Environment Officer for Bristol Diocese is joined by a panel of local church representatives.

[watch here](#)

Blooming and Beautiful - Flower rich grasslands

Since 1945 97% of flower rich grassland – once widespread in the countryside – has vanished. Many burial grounds act as havens for this and the associated animals that live amongst the grassland.

Broadly speaking burial sites dating pre 1945 are likely to have a rich variety of plants and just need the right management to help it to flower in all its glory.

Andrea Gilpin from CfGA hosts this webinar exploring how to manage grassland in burial grounds in a way that encourages wildflowers whilst being sensitive to visitors' needs.

Speaker: **Andrea Gilpin** works for Caring for God's Acre and leads on advising people in managing their burial ground, along with developing and delivering projects. Her background is in ecology.

watch recording

Bats in Churches

This webinar will give a brief overview of the Bats in Churches Project and talk about why bats are so precious, but the issues bats can cause.

It will tell listeners how to get involved in the summer surveys and why we need more data to help both heritage, bats and church communities to thrive

Speakers: Honor Gay & Ione Fitzpatrick are the engagement and communications officers for the Bats in Churches project of which the Church of England is a partner. Honor works closely with a range of churches in the south of England living with bats, helping them to find a place of peaceful co-existence through solutions that allow the churches to be used as intended, while protecting the bats that roost there. Ione is trying to get as many people as possible signed up to survey their local churches for evidence of bats this summer to give a better picture of how bats are using churches across the country, allowing us to better support churches and bats into the future.

watch recording

[Devon Living Churchyards Project](#)

This webinar will tell you all about the Devon Living Churchyards Project, and what you can learn from it.

The project is encouraging Devon churches to increase the biodiversity in their churchyards by managing the land differently. It will cover the methodology, guidance notes, and workshops.

Speaker: **David Curry** is the Exeter Diocese Environmental Adviser (voluntary) and manages the Devon Living Churchyards Project. Is chair of the Devon Churches Green Action Group.

[watch recording](#)

[Eco Church - Land and Nature](#)

This webinar will tell you all about the 'Land' section of the Eco Church framework, why it matters, and will be filled with practical examples of what churches around the country have achieved.

Even urban churches will find out what's possible, whether it's installing planters and swift boxes, or forming partnerships to help others nearby.

Speakers: **Helen Stephens** and **Andy Lester** from A Rocha UK, who run the Eco Church Programme. Helen is their Church Relations Manager and Andy is their Head of Conservation

[watch here](#)

[A beginner's guide to biodiversity and ecology](#)

We live on an amazing planet. The number of currently living species has recently been estimated at 8.7 million, give or take 1.3 million, yet 95% of all the species that have ever lived are thought to have become extinct over time.

As Christians, we believe that God not only created everything, but is actively involved in his creation, so it is important to understand how ecosystems work, how ecological communities are structured, how species come and go and how humans impact the world.

Scientific understanding helps us to be 'planetwise' * and to be effective stewards. *(title of a book by Revd Dave Bookless)

Speaker: **Godfrey Armitage** is the Diocesan Environment Officer for the Diocese of Coventry; he taught Ecology and Conservation at Warwick University for some years and is a tutor for the Christian Rural and Environmental Studies (CRES) Certificate.

[watch recording](#)

[Biological recording and the Beautiful Burial Ground project](#)

Our closing webinar is arguably the most important in this, Churches Count on Nature week, because it will tell you **how** and **why** you can record the precious nature you find in your churchyard this week.

The webinar begins with an overview of the value of churchyards for biodiversity, due to their history over the centuries. Then Harriet will explain why we need biological records, and how your records link to the National Biodiversity Network and on into the Church Heritage Record.

It will cover the practicalities of how to get started with biological recording.

Speaker: Harriet Carty is the Director of the conservation charity Caring for God's Acre. She is an ecologist with experience in land management for people and wildlife.

[watch recording](#)

[Back to top](#)

Wild flowers in front of a church. Label says Land and Nature webinar series.

Image not found or type unknown

ALSO OF INTEREST

[Diocesan Environment Officers holding up banners with the fifth mark of mission](#)

Image not found or type unknown

[Net Zero Carbon webinars](#)

Find free webinars on everything from getting started to solar panels



Biodiversity guidance

Learn more about biodiversity in churchyards and how you can help.



Bats in Churches Project

Learn about our Bats in Churches project and how it helps churches.

Churches Count on Nature logo square

Image not found or type unknown

Churches Count on Nature

Learn how you can record the plants and wildlife in your churchyard.

Source URL: <https://www.churchofengland.org/about/environment-and-climate-change/recordings-webinars-land-and-nature-churches-count-nature>