

# St John the Baptist Brewham



St John the Baptist in Brewham are well established, working with Caring for God's Acre to increase the value of the churchyard for nature. They have a great variety of meadow flowers which benefit an array of wildlife which has been seen in the churchyard. They have recently formed a group to support and help members of the community who want to get involved.

Actions we have taken to conserve and/or increase the value of our churchyard for wildlife

- Cutting and removing the grass in late summer
- Cutting the grass or grazing with sheep in early spring
- Encourage established plants, and adding plug plants grown from seed
- Established yellow rattle to reduce vigorous grass
- Increased the number of snowdrops (donated by local people)
- Added reptile mats
- Saved two veteran yew trees from being felled in 2005
- Created a rough area along a wall where brambles, hemp agrimony and other taller plants grow, which benefit mammals, birds and insects
- Leave ant hills instead of removing
- Cut paths to allow shorter areas of grass and access around churchyard

## Species and habitats found in our churchyard

Reptile  
mats

Grasshoppers  
and crickets



Snowdrops,  
primroses, cowslips,  
buttercups

Tussocky  
grass

Trees - two  
veteran yew  
trees, two silver  
birches and a  
small crab apple

Slow worms



Butterflies



Stone walls



Glow worms

Wildflower meadow -  
knapweed, hawkbits, bugle,  
meadows cranesbill,  
agrimony, bird's foot trefoil  
to name a few



Lichens

Shorter turf around  
edges and paths

Fungi, including  
boletus and yellow  
staining mushrooms

Ant hills



## How we have raised awareness in our community

- **Report to the Parish Council** (they are responsible for this area of the churchyard)
- Occasional letters and pictures in the **Parish Magazine**
- A **notice board** by the gate explaining it is a wildlife area
- **Formed a group to support and help** - meeting once a month to work and enjoy a cup of tea and cake

## Key lessons we have learnt

- **Cutting and removing grass is vital**
- **Sheep grazing** in the winter and early spring has helped to reduce the work and people like to see them there
- **Community** - try to get more people involved and visiting the area
- Cut wide **paths** through the grass so that people can walk together, and it looks cared for
- Provide benches for visitors to sit and enjoy the flowers and wildlife

### Get involved or find out more...

This information was provided by Libby and Dave Nye, who are both community members who help care for the churchyard.

If you would like to get involved in Brewham, or get in touch with Libby and Dave to find out more about their experiences at the churchyard, please email [teamwilder@somersetwildlife.org](mailto:teamwilder@somersetwildlife.org).

If you would like to find out more about how to get your churchyard/other church land/burial ground involved in Wilder Churches, please visit our [website](#), where you can find a variety of resources including a series of online training sessions.

## Take a look at St John the Baptist, Brewham...

