



THE GREAT BIG GREEN WEEK

TREASURE, SAFEGUARD & CARE FOR CREATION

Church Land - Biodiversity & Community Engagement

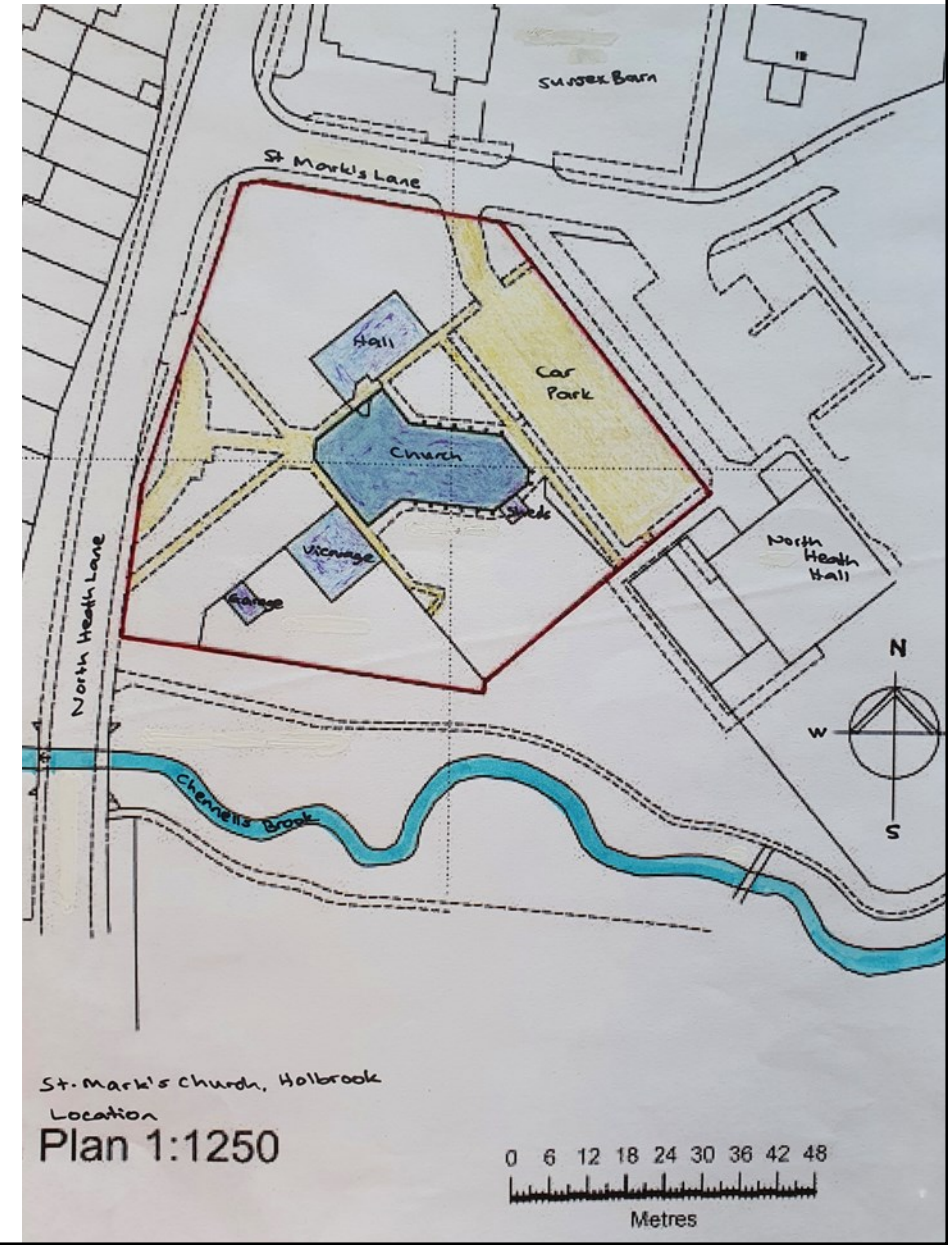
St. Mark's, Holbrook - Karen Park

St. Mary's, Horsham - Hennie Sleeman

St. Margaret's, Warnham - Jo Browse

St Mark's Church, Holbrook

- Built in 1990
- Chennells Brook
- Silver Eco Church Award in 2018



Church Land



Bug Church



Holbrook Community Orchard

- Planned in the church gardens
- Community Climate Fund grant from Horsham District Council
- Plant relatively mature fruit trees
- Help children plant spring bulbs, create a wildflower meadow & bug hotel
- Recycle food scraps and garden waste in a Hotbin
- Collect rainwater in water butts
- Grow fruit and vegetables for our community
- Invite everyone to spend time in the church gardens and journey through a Psalm 23 inspired nature trail



St. Mary's Church, Horsham



- Horsham Parish Church
 - Grade I listed building
 - Founded in 1247
 - At the bottom of the Causeway
-
- Just starting our life as an Eco Church
 - Hoping to apply for Bronze Award at the end of 2022



Churchyard Bioblitz - 4th June 2022 10:00 – 14:00



- Large churchyard sitting above the River Arun
- Half unmanaged woodland, half more formal mown grass. Many gravestones
- Unenclosed public access
- 18 participants
 - Church members
 - Local Conservationists
 - Scientists from the Natural History Museum

Main results from the blitzers



155 species of flowering plants
48 species of bryophytes
(mosses & liverworts)
Many old and interesting trees



Most notable species – Rue-leaved Saxifrage
(see right)



Findings and next plans.....

- Grassland areas are quite healthy but under threat from thick mats of grass cuttings – these need to be removed after mowing
- We hope to work towards a programme of succession grass cutting to encourage further diversity
- Active management of the woodland would be useful
- Clearing some areas of undergrowth in the winter and leaving others would also encourage more diversity
- General aim to develop different areas within the churchyard to reflect different needs of the community and to help biodiversity

St. Margaret's Church, Warnham



Butterfly Fields



Wild Bunch and Horsham Green Gym at Warnham Butterfly Fields



Warnham Butterfly Fields



Target species
Brown Hairstreak
Dingy Skipper
Grizzled Skipper
White Admiral
Purple Emperor
Small Heath



Village church
Traditional
Semi-rural
±1.5 acre graveyard
Centre of village
Congregation ±50
C of E School



St Margaret's, Warnham



The Queen's Green Canopy

Replanting a gap in the churchyard boundary hedge

Species planted:

Hazel

Field Maple

Hornbeam

Spindle

Holly

Hawthorn

Blackthorn



THE
QUEEN'S GREEN
CANOPY

THE PLATINUM JUBILEE 2022

ST MARGARET'S CHURCH WARNHAM

HORSHAM

JUBILEE TREES PLANTED

10 Hornbeam

10 Field Maple

10 Hazel

50 Hedgerow (no. of
trees)



Wild About Warnham volunteers and members of St Margaret's church have created this *dead hedge* to improve habitat in the churchyard for wildlife.

What's a
'dead hedge'?

Locally coppiced hazel stakes, kindly donated by Michael Short, were used to make the framework which has been filled with a large quantity of twigs and other woody material gathered in the churchyard. A few of last year's Christmas trees have also been recycled in the hedge!

The benefits for wildlife...



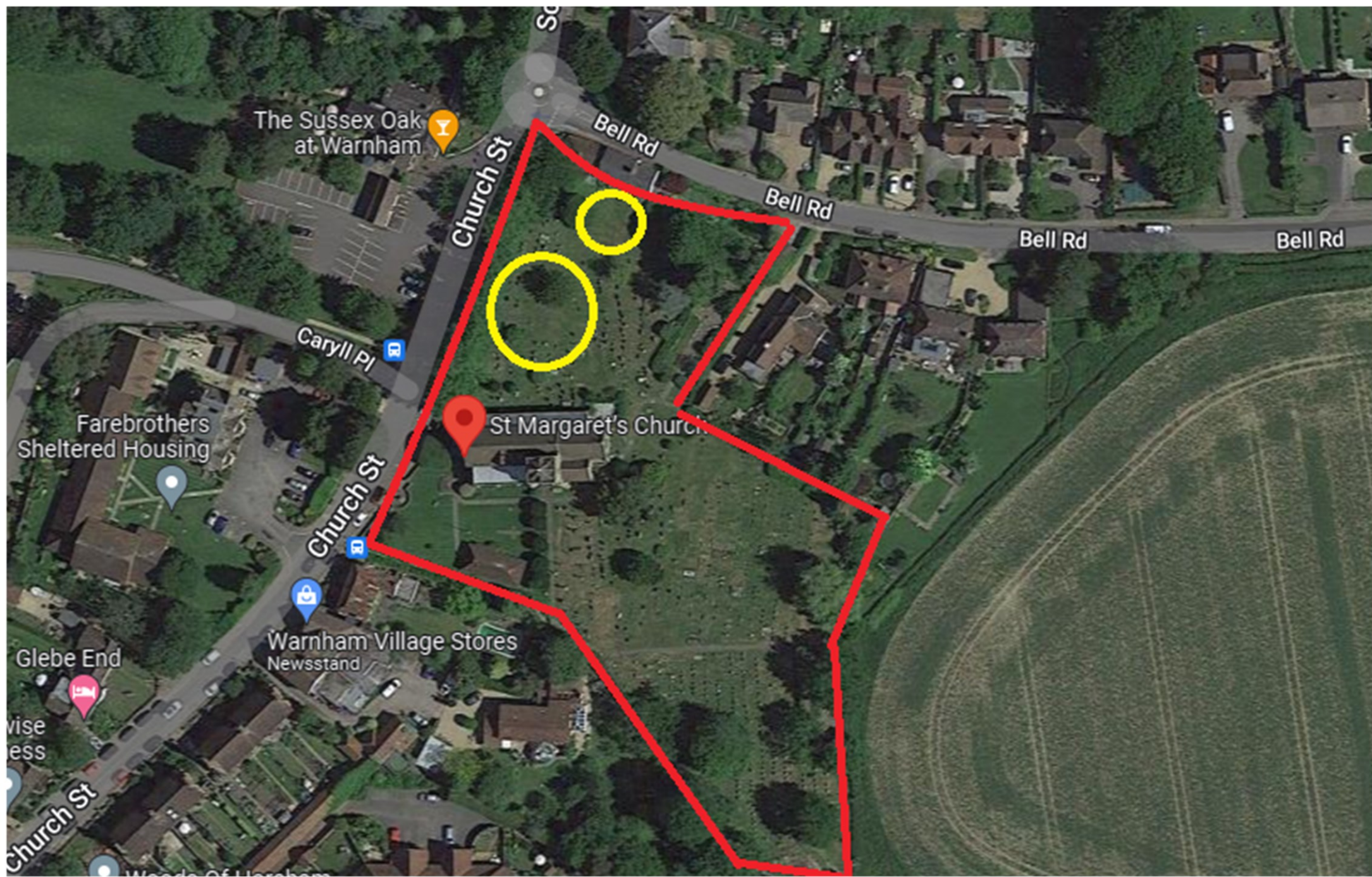
We hope this hedge will provide

- a snug home for hedgehogs, shelter for frogs, toads, newts, grass snakes
- a good place for small birds such as wrens and robins to make their nests
- a 'bug hotel' for countless invertebrate species, which in turn will form part of the food chain for some of the hedge's other residents

By taking woody material from the existing compost heap, we hope grass cuttings and other soft material will compost more effectively - potentially a valuable peat-free resource for Warnham gardeners! By adding all the twiggy material we collect to the dead hedge, we'll have no need of bonfires.

No fires,
better compost

In time the material in the dead hedge will gradually decompose but as it does, additional woody material will be added.





Meadow mowing with scythes

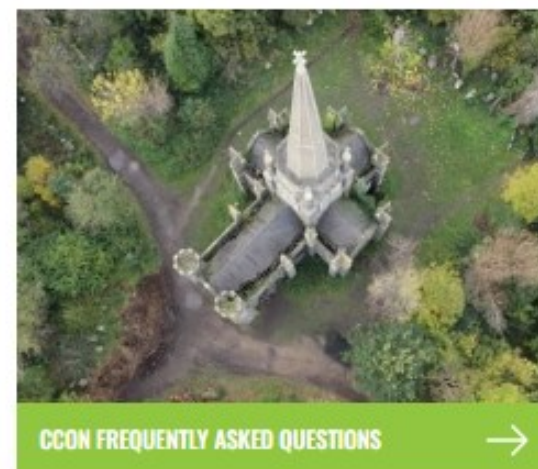
An experiment!



Resources for Love Your Burial Ground Week/Churches Count on Nature Events

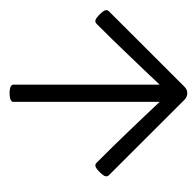


We hope you'll have a great time whatever you choose to do! We have put together various links and downloads which may be useful and encourage everyone, young and old to get involved.



Installing swift boxes





STOP PRESS

St Margaret's has
just applied for a
Bronze Award
from A Rocha!

