



## MAY ECO TIP

### Looking after our planet - a thought from the Eco-Team

Dear friends,

There are different ways we can enjoy and appreciate God's creation: walking/exploring, observing/monitoring, tasting/smelling/studying it... – as well as different ways of caring for nature and taking responsibility for its welfare. This month we are offering thoughts on how we manage land or property that is under our direct control: our gardens, allotments, ponds, small woodlands – and of course the land around our church and adjacent to the Wheelhouse.

Some practical ideas:

- "NO MOW MAY": let wildflowers blossom and supply nectar and pollen to insects in your garden! Avoid putting fertilizer and weedkiller on your lawn! (Not just in May)
- You could leave an area completely wild till autumn and then set up some heaps of twigs or leaves for hibernating animals during the winter.
- A thick half-buried decaying log will make a marvellous habitat for a variety of invertebrates!
- Create a little wildlife pond (without fish – they eat the insect larvae and tadpoles!): <https://freshwaterhabitats.org.uk/advice-resources/garden-pond-advice-hub/>
- It is also quite fascinating - and helpful for important research - to participate in "citizen science" by joining a seasonal monitoring campaign like a pollinator or bird count.

Here are some useful websites of organisations that run such campaigns:

Butterfly Conservation Trust:

<https://butterfly-conservation.org/butterflies/recording-and-monitoring>

Caring for God's acre:

<https://www.caringforgodsacre.org.uk/churches-count-on-nature-faqs/>

UK Pollinator Monitoring Scheme:

<https://ukpoms.org.uk/>

Hopefully these suggestions inspire you to try something new. These activities are not just valuable contributions to preserve our native wildlife – they can also be great fun and introduce us into fascinating new areas of interest! Enjoy God's creation with all its colours, sounds and smells in May - I am looking forward to observing my honeybees in action..