Churchyards in a Living Landscape

There are many hundreds of churchyards in Kent. These sites, which have been a haven of peace for people for centuries, often provide valuable refuges for wildlife. Whether located in towns and villages or in the countryside, our churchyards have their part to play as a stepping stone for wildlife in the wider landscape.

Hedges and old trees are a valuable wildlife habitat for bats, birds and small mammals.

Regularly updated interpretation boards inform the public about the wildlife and any management taking place.

A compost heap and patches of nettles can be left tucked away at the back of the churchyard.

Reducing the number of cuts allows wildflowers to grow and set seed.

There are 600 or so lichens found in churchyards in lowland England and half of these are very rare.

Old buildings such as churches provide much-needed roosting places for bats.

Granite walls provide a good surface for lichens, mosses and ferns to grow, and are home to numerous animals.