



Caru Gwenyn  
Bee Friendly



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

## Case Studies

# St Mary's Churchyard, Chirk

St Mary's Churchyard ([www.stmaryschirk.org.uk](http://www.stmaryschirk.org.uk)) volunteers recognised their churchyard could be a safe haven for wildlife.

Since 2009, they have been working to maintain and enhance the natural environment and historical interest of the Churchyard whilst presenting an attractive and cared for appearance.

In 2019, they joined the Bee Friendly scheme and are committed to helping pollinators.



### Theme 1 – Food – providing pollinator-friendly food sources



Using the Action Plan for Pollinators Suggested Plant List for Pollinators they have created wildlife flower areas. Going forward they plan to develop and expand these areas and share their progress by updating pictures on their web page.

They have five water trays placed around the Churchyard and top them up from their rain water butt during dry spells. This helps pollinators who need sources of water for many purposes.

They have implemented a cutting regime which leaves areas of uncut grass. This allows flowers to bloom and provide a food source for pollinators.

### Theme 2 – Five Star Accommodation – providing places for pollinators to live

The uncut areas of grass provide places for pollinators to complete their life cycles as they change from their larval stages to become butterflies, moths or beetles.

They have made a 'bug hotel' and hanging bee logs.

### Theme 3 – Freedom from Pesticides – avoiding chemicals that harm

They do not use pesticides.

### Theme 4 – Fun – Involving all the community

The Churchyard volunteers work with local teachers, qualified specialists and parents to hold local school events such as a Bug/Beasty hunt. During the hunt a search for bugs using sweep nets, looking under stones and carpet patches etc., is carried out. This is followed by an identification, discussion and drawing session.

With a local school, they have held a May Pole dancing event attended by local children and families. As part of this event they had a wildlife hunt quiz which was enjoyed by many children.