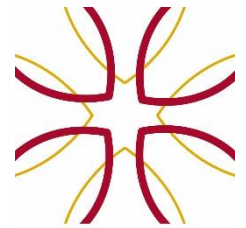


# Churches Count on Nature

6<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> June 2026



ALL SAINTS  
KINGSTON

We wanted to spend a bit longer noticing and enjoying the wildlife in the churchyard this week.

**Wildflower count...**The rain stopped just in time to enable the wildflower count to go ahead with our expert ecologist Alison Fure, who has undertaken the count for the last three years. The newly revealed Wych Elm was heavily populated with Elm sac galls, are a valuable addition to the churchyard's ecological interest. On ground not previously surveyed were Common Cudweed and a large number of seed-bearing plants, including Knotgrass (which had been recorded before), as well as abundant Shepherd's-cress. The Creeping Cinquefoil was particularly rich in pollinator activity, supporting large numbers of bees, including Red-tailed bumblebees, Common Carder bees, and Buff-tailed bumblebees. The bat survey also confirmed we have pipistrelle bats.



**About the flax...**The flax on the west side of the churchyard is likely to flower soon and is nearing harvest time, so it was timely to have a fascinating talk from Paul Henry, a renowned fibre consultant, educator, demonstrator and advisor to the Weald and Downland Living Museum about how this naturally grown material can be turned into linen using the heritage crafts of spinning and weaving.



**Litter picking and sunflower planting...**The new Deputy Mayor Jane Lim and her husband helped the gardening group pick up the litter on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> June, by when the rain had stopped. We were able to share some of the recent wildflower findings, how we are increasing biodiversity, the embroideries and they had an unanticipated visit to the bell tower, where a visiting team were pealing. The sun encouraged many to sit a bit longer in the churchyard grounds. Some of us took advantage of Sarah's cream tea offer and both children and adults took away sunflowers to nurture with broad smiles.

