



*“The earth is the Lord’s, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it; for he founded it on the seas and established it on the waters.”—Psalm 24:1-2*

In 2025, St. Mary’s Church, with Wild Amersham, Amersham Town Council, and the Amersham Museum, launched the [Bring It Back](#) group. We came together as volunteers, aiming to restore biodiversity in our churchyard, uncover stories about its past, connect the community, and inspire learning, with young adults leading the way. Almost one year since beginning, St. Mary’s and the Bring it Back team are just getting started.



Photograph by Neil Marshment: <https://neilmarshment.co.uk/>

Nature is deeply ingrained in the history of our church and town. Past images of the church often showcase the connection between humanity and nature that we have lost and intend to restore. Many feature a far wilder churchyard, ivy draped across parts of the building, and more natural spaces surrounding the church.

The U.K. is one of the most nature-depleted nations in the world, and the church, with the local community, wants to play our part in protecting the many native species Amersham is blessed with: wildflowers, birds, bats, amphibians, mammals, and insects. In recent decades climate change, habitat loss, invasive species, pollution, and intensive agriculture have all impacted wildlife and much care is needed to protect it.

St. Mary's Church has huge potential:

- The churchyard sits beside a rare chalk stream and forms part of a unique and fascinating ecosystem.
- The grounds have avoided much of the ploughing, insecticides, and pesticides that degrade soil and plant life over time.

- It is already home to many species. Before even beginning to make changes, in a surveying session, we identified over 100 native plant species. More recently, we found 15 unique fungi species, with the help of local experts.
- Small changes to our shared space, like adding a native hedge, bat boxes, bird boxes, and insect hotels, can build on this strong foundation.



*Photograph by Marieke Bosman*

Bring It Back aligns with our three core values of community, welcome, and worship, and will play a crucial role in St. Mary's becoming a certified [Ecochurch](#). We are excited by this opportunity to protect God's nature that enriches our community so much.

If you'd like to join our group, please reach out on our homepage or contact Briony Hudson directly at [briony.hudson@amershammuseum.org](mailto:briony.hudson@amershammuseum.org). We'd love to hear from you!