

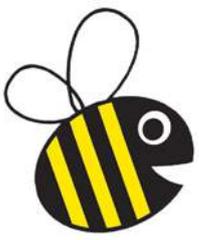


Creating a Buzz!

**A toolkit for action by faith-based groups
working for bees and other pollinators**

Oxford Friends of the Earth | 2015





What's all the buzz about?

Over the last 60 years, the UK has lost 97% of its traditional wildflower meadows. Farming practices have changed and dependence upon chemicals has grown. Publicity about the importance of wildflowers for bees has focused attention on the value of gardens and informal green space.

National and local biodiversity action plans now focus on conserving historic meadows, regenerating areas that could be valuable habitats, and creating new spaces for wildlife. A National Pollinator Strategy for England was published in November 2014, and one key aim is encouraging community action in creating spaces for pollinators.

Creating a Buzz! is all about building awareness of the vital role of these insect pollinators and how faith-based communities can help to protect bees and meet their needs. We hope to increase pollinator-friendly planting around places of worship and faith-based buildings.

Why focus on faith communities?

Many own or manage green spaces such as churchyards and memorial gardens, which contribute to local character as well as having a rich biodiversity (the variety of life). This land is a community asset, often a shared public space and a place of quiet reflection. Sites can have substantial ecological and aesthetic appeal. Historically, these sites have not been over-managed and offer different habitats that are valuable for both wildlife and people.

There is another dimension to involving faith communities. There is a deep historical connection between faith communities and the recognition of bees as beneficial creatures. This is explored in section 2. Creating bee-friendly spaces can be a creative expression of a faith's values.

Faith communities often refer to reverence and awe. **AWE** is a useful way to think about this – it's all about:

- **Awareness-raising**
- **Willingness** to take action for bees and other pollinators, and
- **Encouraging** others to join in.

We hope that this guide will help you build awareness and turn that awareness into action.



Introduction – the Creating a Buzz! toolkit

This toolkit has been produced by Oxford Friends of the Earth (FoE) as part of its 'Creating a Buzz!' project to help any faith group that wants to take action to help pollinators as part of its activities.

This guide shows why this work is important, what you can do and how you can do it. It offers practical ideas and guidance to help get you started. It can help you in upgrading or maintaining existing spaces with pollinators and people in mind. There are also pointers on other important issues such as not using pesticides that might be harmful to wildlife. While it is aimed firstly at people involved in green spaces around faith buildings, we hope that it will be helpful to any community wanting to do something for Britain's bees.

Why is Oxford FoE producing this guide?

We have been active in support of bees for over three years. We have planted a 'Bee World' meadow in the Kidneys nature reserve in east Oxford, organised the first Oxford Bee Summit at the Natural History Museum in 2014, and we have invited local people on 'bee walks'. We work with Oxford City council to improve the environment for bees and we are campaigning locally to raise awareness about the harmful impact of pesticides on pollinators.

With 'Creating a Buzz!' we are working to help others create more habitats primarily for wild bees. Many green spaces in and around the city are looked after by faith-based organisations and we are pleased with how organisations have engaged with us.

Contents

	page
1 Getting started – what can we do?	5
2 Faiths and bees	7
3 Bees and pollinators – why do they matter?	8
4 Planning your planting and selecting plants	9
5 Working on site	11
6 Maintenance and monitoring	12
7 Staying safe – understanding risks	13
8 Publicity and communication	14
9 Monitoring and evaluation	15
10 Working with volunteers	16
11 Other activities	18
12 A few words on pesticides	21
13 Next steps and over to you!	22
Information and resources	23
Glossary	26

This guide has been produced for Oxford FoE by Jan McHarry with editorial support from Fiona Tavner and Chris Church. Reproduction and use of this material is welcomed but please acknowledge the source. Oxford FoE thanks the National Lottery through the Big Lottery Fund for their financial support for this work.

1

Getting started

Many places of worship and faith community buildings have some open space around them. You can use this space to create new and better habitats for bees, and such projects may well be of interest to local people. Over time, these spaces can develop considerable aesthetic and ecological value, and are a visible demonstration of 'faith in action.' This section sets out how to get started on a project, large or small. You can use, adapt or discard these ideas according to local circumstances.

- **You don't have to be a bee or plant expert** to get involved. A little knowledge helps but other people within a congregation or group may well have some knowledge and be able to assist. There is plenty of advice available on planting to support pollinators and wildlife – see section 4.
- **Start by finding some help.** Talk about your ideas with other people. Use notice-boards, newsletters, social media and local connections. There may already be people looking after a churchyard or a building's surroundings, or people interested in environmental issues within the organisation. You may also find 'new' people keen on plants and growing who may not be involved with a faith organisation but who live locally and are keen to help make a difference to a local space they enjoy.
- **Talk early on to a faith 'leader'** or someone involved with the faith group, for example a church warden in the Christian tradition, who may be able to help in a variety of ways. Getting their go-ahead and a statement of support is helpful. There is probably a management committee or governing body and you should talk to them early on, especially if you want permission for planting. Many faith-based organisations have made public statements about supporting environmental activities as an integral expression of faith values – see section 2. These can be a useful lever.

- **Be realistic** – it takes time and patience to involve other people. You could start with small steps that draw attention to an idea such as container planting at the entrance to a building, while a short article in a newsletter or a notice-board display can stimulate interest. Introducing the idea via a particular faith activity or linked to a festival may help others to make the links between a practical project and an expression of faith. Other options include involving children or young people or working with a local organisation or community group.



Choosing and agreeing a site for planting

Pollinator-friendly planting doesn't have to be large-scale. It can feel more comfortable to start small on a project that then grows over time and the seasons, especially if there is uncertainty over resourcing or management. You can easily add more plants at a later date.

The first step is to look at where you might work. Whether you are keen to create a newly planted area or adapt an existing space, it is good to do a site walk, however small, with others to explain ideas. A first visit is about exploring possibilities and what might be feasible but may also bring in other perspectives and practical suggestions.

Try to involve the decision-makers at an early stage as well as anyone involved in maintaining the space at present.

Draw up a site diagram and mark the potential changes and planting. This can be backed up by some photographs, ideally taken at different times of the day or over seasons, to show how the site appearance changes (e.g. in sunshine and shade, different management regimes etc). 'Before and after' photos demonstrate positive changes over time and this evidence can help secure other help.

If you are already managing a place for wildlife, it is relatively simple to add in other features and increase pollinator-friendly planting. On other sites, you may need to do more planning and to tackle any negative and/or safety perceptions about, for example, maintenance or having bees in a public space.

Many of the organisations listed within the Resources section have information available online or will be able to help on specific issues.

**WE DON'T
LIKE BEES!**

Some people are scared of flying insects. But bees rarely sting unless provoked and they die once they have

used their sting. Not all bees have the ability to sting. If projects are considering adding a beehive, the advice of a beekeeper should be sought and common-sense precautions taken e.g. public notices about not disturbing a hive, standing too close or blocking the bees flight path.

“Churchyards and burial grounds once reflected the abundant wildlife of the countryside around them, now they represent islands of refuge for plants and animals lost from the surrounding area.”

Caring for God's Acre project

2

Faiths and bees

Bees have been revered throughout history by many cultures. They have become symbolic of many qualities including new life, diligence and industry, and since it thought they never slept, vigilance. They are widely celebrated within literature and many customs have grown up around them, for example, the tradition of 'telling the bees' when a beekeeper dies or a hive has to be moved.

Across the faiths and different belief systems, many references are found in sacred texts and teachings to parks, gardens, nature, wildlife and caring for creation in general. Symbolism can also be found within the architecture or decoration within buildings, for example, stone and wood carvings, paintings and stained glass. Products arising from beekeeping – beeswax and honey – are used in many ceremonies and beekeeping has long been a traditional livelihood for faith practitioners.

Faiths and belief systems observe certain dates, celebrations and festivals as part of their worship, observance or practice of sacred teachings. This may be done collectively in large gatherings, in congregations and/or as an individual activity. Celebrations can happen within a faith building or another community setting, inside and outside, or in the home. Many events or rituals have a direct link with elements in the environment e.g. the use of water, food, wildlife, trees and plants. Key themes that may be evoked include care of creation, responsible stewardship of nature, interconnectedness, mindful use of resources and gratitude.

Many faiths own or manage buildings and their surroundings. These spaces, whether a formal churchyard, a quiet reflective garden or just a few planted containers can provide the opportunity to make a closer link with nature as well as having aesthetic appeal. Pollinator-friendly planting can be another means of acknowledging gratitude for the free and vital service that bees (and other pollinators) provide that supports human wellbeing, biodiversity and food production.

Examples of bees and honey in sacred teachings include:

- Hindu culture has 'bee goddesses'.
- In the Qu'ran (which names one of its chapters 'Bees') honey is described as a 'medicine'.
- The ancient Hebrews noted that honey made the difference between tasteless or bitter food and sweetness.
- Apples dipped in honey are an important foodstuff at the Jewish New Year.
- Buddhism advocates a gentle non-aggressive attitude towards nature. According to the Sigalovada Sutta a householder should accumulate wealth as a bee collects pollen from a flower. The bee doesn't harm the fragrance or the beauty of a flower but gathers just enough for its needs.
- There are 21 direct mentions of bees in the Christian bible (www.pollinator.org).

A growing number of churchyards are adopting wildflower planting and wildlife-friendly management techniques. Some have beehives. The small charity, Caring for God's Acre are a source of inspiration (*see Resources*).

Several mosques in London, including Kingston and East London Mosque/London Muslim Centre have installed beehives. In Luton, there are beehives on the roof of Friends' Meeting House (Quakers) and 'bee-friendly' activities have been incorporated into Open Days elsewhere. The 'Creating a Buzz'! project in Oxford is encouraging pollinator-friendly planting (*see Oxford Friends of the Earth website*) and this toolkit includes ideas for faith-based and community activities.

Bees and pollinators – why do they matter?

Bees and other insect pollinators such as butterflies, hover flies and moths are essential for food production and for pollinating flowers, shrubs and some trees. Whilst foraging for nectar (their energy source and food for larvae), bees pick up pollen (their protein and other nutrients) and transfer it from plant to plant thus assisting reproduction. Bees are also vital to our economy. 75% of our main food crops depend upon bees and other insects for pollination. Without them, pollination by hand would cost £1.8 billion each year in the UK.

The UK is home to over 250 species of bee. All are excellent pollinators. But bees are in trouble. Two bumblebee species have become extinct. Wild honey bees are nearly extinct in many parts of the UK. Managed honey bee colonies fell by over 50% between 1985–2005 and solitary bees have declined in over half of the areas studied. A quarter of bee species are on the national ‘red list’ of threatened species.

Changes in agriculture are a major cause of bee decline, but other factors including pesticides, loss of habitat and climate change are very important. In the last 60 years we’ve lost 97% of our wildflower meadows. Research indicates that British gardens (which cover over a million acres) and rural and urban informal green spaces are now vital places for bees. We need more bee-friendly green spaces. Different pollinators feed on different species of plants so it is good to have a succession of flowers available for them throughout the seasons.

Bees are indicators of a healthy environment anywhere. Research from the Urban Pollinators project has found that:

- Pollinators are as common in urban areas as in farms and nature reserves.
- There are more bee species in cities than in farms and nature reserves.
- There are as many rare species in urban areas as there are in nature reserves and farms.

There are 3 types of bee: honey bees, bumblebees and solitary bees.

- **Honey bees** are mostly non-native species that live in social colonies composed of a queen, workers (who perform all the tasks) and drones. They produce honey in managed hives tended by beekeepers.
- There are 220 species of wild **solitary bees**. They are called ‘solitary’ because they make individual nest cells for their larvae in holes in the ground, hollow plant stems, old brick walls and in logs. Some are very small and black. They may not look like anyone’s idea of a bee. They are unlikely to sting (only females have stings). They pollinate plants more effectively than honeybees. Buglife produces identification guides for pollinators (www.buglife.org.uk).
- There are 25 species of **bumblebee**. They are larger and hairier than other bees allowing them to come out on colder days. They are excellent pollinators because pollen becomes trapped on their furry bodies. Their nests are small (only last 1 year) and they do not store large quantities of honey so they depend upon nectar and pollen rich flowers to feed on. They do not swarm and are not aggressive. Only female bumblebees can sting. The Bumblebee Conservation Trust has lots of information, including identification guides (www.bumblebeeconservation.org).

See the Resources pages at the back of this guide for more advice and information.

4

Planning your planting and selecting plants

Once you have chosen a space for planting nectar and pollen-rich plants, the next step is to select the type of planting scheme you want to achieve. This may be wholly influenced by the particular function of the site and its management plan (if it has one), or there could be various options. These include:

- a mixture of wildflowers and naturalistic planting
- local native species only
- native and non-native species
- a meadow or wildflower lawn
- traditional cottage garden species
- amenity planting
- herbs
- bulbs for naturalising.

Planting isn't just about flowers. Certain shrubs and trees are important to pollinators and can extend the options for planting to include walls and boundary hedges. Where space is restricted, planters, containers or window boxes with herbs and bulbs are still valuable in attracting pollinators.

Plants may be perennials only or a mixture of perennial, biennial and annuals. A wildflower meadow or lawn could just include a mixture of annuals and some perennials which will appear year after year. Annuals need maintenance that encourages the production and distribution of seed for the following year, or manual re-sowing.

Decide whether you will plant seeds, bulbs, plugs (young plants or seedlings) or more established plants, or a mixture. The decision partly depends on what you are trying to achieve. Seeds and bulbs need time to germinate and grow before flowering. Small plants can be added to an area and are immediately visible. Some plants are more suited to sites where other planting is already in place or your options are limited.

It will probably not be appropriate to dig a large bare earth seedbed in a churchyard.

Suppliers' catalogues and online sources generally provide background information on what's available to suit particular growing conditions (e.g. dry soil, drought tolerant, semi-shade, clay soils). They also guide on timing for seasonal planting as do most gardening books.

From the bee's perspective, few flowers and plants offer food throughout the entire season. The ideal aim is to have a variety of plants that flower from spring to late autumn months when pollinators are still around. Early and late nectar energy sources are very important. In early spring when many pollinators are emerging from over-wintering, nectar and pollen sources can be limited so early flowers such as crocuses are particularly beneficial. Similarly, at the end of autumn when there are fewer flowering plants, shrubs such as flowering ivy can help supply or top up essential nectar reserves.

Advice on planting

A good gardening book, websites and material from gardening and wildlife organisations will provide guidance (including photos of plants) but it is great to have one or two people involved in the project with relevant gardening or botanical skills. This assists with the practicalities and the knowledge sharing and teamwork can help build everyone's skills and sense of involvement.

There is plenty of advice on choosing good plants for pollinators. **The Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) 'Perfect for Pollinators' lists** are very good and endorsed by the National Pollinator Strategy (see *Resources*). One list focuses on garden plants and seasonal importance, another covers wildflowers suitable for different habitats, and a third is 'Plants of the World' which includes a selection of UK native plants. The lists are comprehensive but not exhaustive of every nectar/pollen rich plant.

You may find the RHS 'Perfect for Pollinators' logo on suitable plant labels in garden centres and in seed and plant catalogues. Some mainstream plant catalogues use their own bee or butterfly symbol or text indicating whether plants are attractive to bees and butterflies. Specialist nurseries often have pollinator-friendly collections of plants available. This is helpful if you are new to choosing plants. They also guide buyers when a particular colour scheme is desired (e.g. this may be relevant for particular faith or cultural events) or where flowers are also required for cutting.

The British Beekeeper's Association website (under 'Gardening for Bees') has a 20 page list which indicates whether a plant is important for nectar or pollen or both, and the flowering month.

A single page list of nectar-rich plants is available from the Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire Wildlife Trust (BBOWT) and Oxfordshire ecologist Dr Judith Webb has also produced some summary lists and other information on nectar and pollen rich plants (*see Resources*).

Always follow the seed or plant supplier's instructions for planting and maintenance and ask if you aren't sure about quantities of seed required. Many suppliers have extensive online information, including videos on sowing wildflowers, and design and planting ideas e.g. sowing seed in drifts and block planting (3 or 5 plants together) which suits bees better.

Weather and local conditions (including pests) always introduce uncertainty into growing so it is prudent to order a little more seed or plants than you actually need. These 'spares' could be looked after by someone else or kept on site as 'fillers' in case they are needed. If you have collected wildflower seed, ask for volunteers to grow the seeds ready for planting next year.

If you order plants or seeds for a particular event, let the stockist know this when you order and do so well in advance. This will allow time for communication if there are delays in fulfilling the order.

Choosing British wildflower seed mixes and plants

A large number of wildflower seed mixes (annual and perennial) suitable for different purposes are now on the market. It is preferable to choose British wildflower seed, suitable for the locality and planting conditions, to ensure success and to maintain local biodiversity. If in doubt, ask the supplier for guidance. They can also advise on the amount of seed required for the space available, preparation and sowing procedures, and general aftercare.

If you are tackling a larger project, do some research – online, by reading suppliers catalogues or speaking to someone with experience – about what will work for your circumstances and the type of management (e.g. mowing regimes) that might be required. Some seed mixtures contain grass which can outgrow and smother wildflowers. Others contain yellow rattle, a semi-parasitic grassland annual that suppresses grass growth, allowing more wildflowers to flourish.

Another option for obtaining seed is using locally collected wildflower seed. Watch out for advertised local seed events in July and August just before the hay is cut, or local seed swaps. If you have a wildflower planted area, you can gather seed after flowering for re-seeding other patches. Flora Locale note that 'non-native species and cultivars such as daffodil cultivars, tulips, Spanish bluebell and polyanthus should not be planted in woodland, semi-natural habitats, road verges or land outside the built-up areas of towns and cities. It is illegal to plant some species in the wild'.

5

Working on site

This section looks at what needs to be done so that your project can flourish. It assumes you have a location and an idea of what to grow. Issues include finding people to help, finding time for adequate preparation and sourcing tools and equipment.

Finding people to help

You can't do this on your own! You may already have a small group of people interested in the project. Others might be happy to join in for particular tasks or at particular times. You may need help for one-off sessions, a specific planting day and/or ongoing help. *(See page 16 for advice on working with volunteers.)*

Assembling tools

You will need some tools to help with clearing and planting – just what will be needed depends on what you plan to do. Your faith centre may already have the tools or they can be borrowed from congregation members or a community project. If not you may need to buy or hire (for bigger tools). You could look for a local sponsor, particularly if the work is in a place where others will benefit or enjoy new planting. An appeal for unwanted tools in a local newspaper or social media often works. Tools need to be checked before use to ensure they are safe and in good condition. Helpers must be instructed on how to use them safely.

The tools you need will depend on the project but might include: spade, border fork, rake, hoe, hand trowels, shears, secateurs, bucket or containers, water can or hose. Larger items include a wheel barrow, strimmer and protective gear. For heavy clearance find someone with a chain saw who is trained. *(See section 7 for safety considerations.)* Small items such as gloves are essential for many tasks. You may also need wood (for building raised beds or simple insect hotels), growing compost and soil improvers, and plant containers. Avoid herbicides like Roundup (Glyphosate) while there are health concerns about its use.

Preparing your space/project

Your plan should set out what needs to be done – depending on the scale of the project, tasks could be:

- Clearing overgrown vegetation and mowing grass
- Weeding
- Adding soil improvers e.g. horticultural sand or grit to improve drainage
- Preparing planting holes for bulbs or small plants
- Digging a seed-bed or flower-bed to break down soil lumps and remove stones
- Removing topsoil to reduce the nutrient level ready for wildflower planting
- Preparing containers for bulb or herb planting
- Installing a composter or water butt
- Building wooden bee boxes (known as bee or bug hotels).

If you're having a one-off planting day or regular sessions, plan the time and look at how you can allocate tasks to people. Work out what needs to be done before planting can start. Share the work out so that people are not for stuck on one activity. Explain what is to be done and why at the start of each session and allow time for socialising.



6

Maintenance and monitoring

It takes time to realise the full benefits of creating new habitats and seeing the consequences of selecting nectar and pollen rich plants for bees and other pollinators. Beneficial planting may immediately attract additional pollinators but it will be what happens over the next seasons and years that is important to reverse pollinator decline.

Nothing stays the same in the natural world. Ecosystems will always change and develop so good management is essential in order to retain a particular feature. Traditional British wildflower meadows have seasonal cutting and hay making – practices which maintain the growing conditions and distribute the seeds. This allows new plants to flourish the following year. Similarly, managing woodlands is essential otherwise shading from trees stops early nectar-providing spring flowers like primroses, snowdrops and bluebells from thriving.

Tackling maintenance

How much ongoing management you need will depend on the nature of your site, the type of planting and the resources (financial and human) available. A churchyard managed as a wildlife sanctuary will require different techniques than planting around a building or public walkway. Low maintenance planting is not necessarily less valuable to pollinators. Careful choice of plants and site conditions are key considerations.

Part of this is simply keeping an eye on the project. Some questions to consider include:

- Do/will the plants continue to flourish and attract more pollinators?
- Is it possible to collect wildflower seed before cutting/mowing to re-seed other areas?
- Does a site have varied planting to provide a long seasonal appeal to pollinators?
- Does it need costly and ongoing maintenance?
- Can you tell if a site is becoming more diverse in terms of plant and animal species?
- Is something else required?

The use of the site by people also determines management regimes. For example, maintenance might have to remove aspects which could encourage anti-social behaviour e.g. hidden corners, or action to improve sight-lines. Unfortunately, caring for your site will probably involve a regular litter pick. Gloves should always be worn (*see 'Staying Safe'*).

Maintenance might range from regular gardening tasks that volunteers can easily tackle, through to traditional practices such as coppicing or hedge-laying where some 'show and tell' training might be needed and then on to more specialised work, for example, tree lopping, where professional help is required. A maintenance contract might be in place at some sites using external contractors and this will have to be considered in terms of ensuring pollinator-friendly planting can be properly accommodated. A management plan and a log book can help plan seasonal maintenance tasks.

Resist the temptation to keep the site too 'tidy' – if you are working with 'wild flowers' they will flourish if they are allowed to go to seed.

7

Staying safe – understanding risks

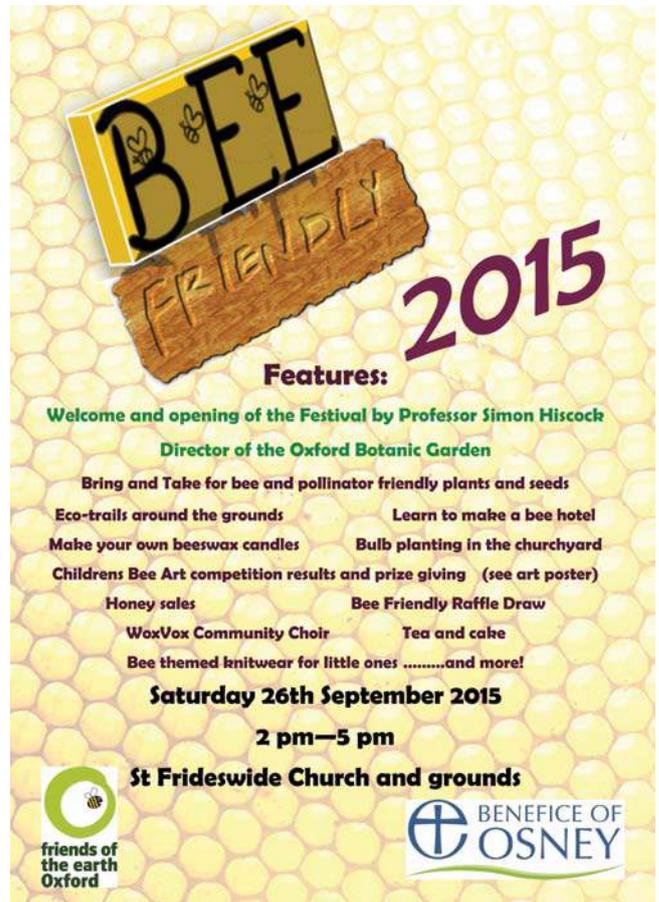
This tool kit does not cover risk assessments or safety aspects linked to discarded items and how to use tools safely. Many organisations have policies covering these and information can be found from a variety of sources, including online, local organisations and training courses.

'Caring for God's Acre' (*see Resources*) has a downloadable blank risk assessment sheet, as well as other materials on maintenance. Supervision of volunteers, especially when tools are in use, is important and projects need to consider basic issues related to first aid and personal safety. Visitors to sites such as churchyards may need to be warned about uneven surfaces and hidden gravestones and memorial stones.

There are some key ways to stay safe:

- Build in regular maintenance so that work is straightforward.
- Wear/have access to appropriate protective clothing and associated items.
- Ensure you have the right tools to do the task effectively: buy, share, borrow.
- Always check that you know how to use tools properly.
- Follow appropriate risk and safety assessments.
- Know who is trained in first aid procedures.

Always wash hands after planting, don't rub your eyes after handling plants and don't eat anything you are unsure of. Some plant species can cause allergic reactions.



8

Publicity and communication



It's good to let people know what you're doing, not least so that they can get involved if they want to. Good publicity is a part of any successful project so plan for this. There are plenty of ways to get the word out:

- Most buildings have a notice-board. Use it.
- Articles in the newsletter from your faith group (if there is one) are important.
- Are there websites, Facebook pages etc. that get to the people you want to reach?
- Is there scope for a Facebook page just for your project (and someone to run it)?
- Preparing a 'Frequently Asked Questions' sheet can be a lively way of presenting information (What's going on, why we are doing it, how you can help).
- Local press will often be very keen to cover good practical actions – let them know about your planting days.
- Local community festivals, meetings and other events.

You may want to look for someone who could take on the role of 'publicity person'. This will all help with getting volunteers and perhaps with raising more funds.

9

Monitoring and evaluation

Are we making a difference?

A little bit of monitoring can help you answer that question. Monitoring your work helps shape future decisions and may suggest other actions that will reinforce what has been done. It provides information on lessons learned and helps provide feedback to supporters and funders. Monitoring is likely to be a mixture of quantitative and qualitative information to also capture community interest and engagement.

This does not need to be expert scientific work, but good advice will help especially if you want to monitor numbers and types of bees and other pollinators. Local environmental groups may be able to help, as might local academics. But monitoring is about more than just 'how many bees' – there's a lot of information that you can gather to show your impacts.

School grounds and gardens proved to be the most bee-friendly habitats for spotting bees during the Great British Bee Count, run by Friends of the Earth, Buglife and Waitrose in May 2015. Over 6000 people participated and over 100,000 photos were submitted using a smartphone app. School grounds provided the most bee sightings whilst gardens provided the greatest variety, followed by allotments, farmland and the countryside. The photos allowed experts to verify the sightings. The Count will take place again in 2016.

Examples of gathering information and monitoring

- A baseline species survey, repeated over time, helps determine changes in pollinator and/or flora populations
- Informal surveying, identification and observations – ongoing
- Bee walks can help identify pollinators, numbers spotted at a particular time, as well as identifying specific plants attracting pollinators in different seasons
- Taking part in annual surveys or 'citizen science' events hosted by conservation groups
- 'Before and after' and seasonal photographs can build into a useful resource, identifying changes over time and pinpointing where action might be needed in future. It also demonstrates change to interested individuals (for example, a photograph display on a notice-board) and can be used in fundraising
- Feedback forms at events and a 'suggestions box' can help gather comments from site users
- Community engagement monitoring – volunteer help, interviews, video, intergenerational, attendance at events
- Preparing a case study
- Social media monitoring
- Press monitoring.

10

Working with volunteers

Developing a local pollinator project will undoubtedly involve plenty of help from volunteers. Giving time and help in this way is nothing new to faith communities or individuals within local community groups. But this may be different. A project like this may attract help from outside its immediate 'community of interest'. People's motivation for getting involved is broader than being a member of that particular faith congregation.

Reasons can be varied. A person may live nearby and regard a site as being part of their neighbourhood, or they may have a particular interest and/or skills they identify as being useful. It can be as simple as knowing people involved and a willingness to give a helping hand, or it might be a desire to do something different with available time. Volunteering is also an opportunity to build practical or communication skills, gain work experience or to increase social contact for health and wellbeing reasons.

Whatever the reason, you will need to think about:

- Recruiting volunteers
- Retaining volunteers
- Using them effectively and building skills (if appropriate)
- Volunteer management: supervision, responsibility for health and safety issues.

Finding people to help

Some people may already be attracted to the project and others may be happy to join in for particular tasks or at particular times. Your need for help might be several one-off sessions, a specific planting day and/or ongoing help.

Use the same communication channels as you did for developing the project – word of mouth, announcements, local newsletters, online social media, neighbouring organisations, schools (if appropriate) and sympathetic local businesses. The latter may be able to support work through Corporate Social Responsibility initiatives.

People may be easier to enlist at certain times of the year. Try to be clear about what's involved, for example, clearing vegetation, digging, planting, weeding etc. so people are prepared for the activity. On the day have a clear plan of activity and allocated tasks. Try to be inclusive – someone may not be able to help with practical work but they might be very good at making arrangements, photography or doing other support activities.

Let people know about practical arrangements e.g. timings if they can't come for all the session, what happens if it rains, toilets, will food and drink be available? If you are going to be working all day, can you weave in an element of fun or informality e.g. a shared picnic lunch, BBQ, or a bonfire? If this isn't possible, try to have some ad-hoc refreshments available.

It's important to put some time into understanding what people can do and want to do. For example, a volunteer may have particular plant knowledge or a personal interest in a site that leads to them offering to design a layout for a particular planting space e.g. a bee and butterfly garden. They may instead simply be interested in practical maintenance work and getting some exercise. Finding the right people for the tasks is a good skill to develop, and can ensure that your project is sustained and inclusive projects, and that individuals are valued whatever their contribution and circumstances.

Retaining volunteers

Whatever the size of the project, using volunteers effectively is crucial. Happy and fulfilled volunteers will return, especially if they are respected, and their skills or particular interests are accommodated. If you have regular volunteers, take the time to find out what they might like to do. They may need training – local conservation groups/community gardens will often have details of relevant courses.

Skills to build might include identifying wild flowers, seed sowing and growing, growing and using herbs, containers and raised beds, working with wood and art-based work. Work to build on people's skills: not everyone will want to garden. People interested in writing or photography will be useful; are there people who could give a talk, lead a tour of a site, or write an article for a parish magazine or website?

Volunteering can open up a new perspective in people's lives and open doors to new possibilities. Alongside the physical work, there are the intangible benefits to people's involvement. Much can be gained either through regular volunteering or occasional help on a particular site. Working alongside other people can be a time for conversation, sharing information, asking questions and just getting to know and appreciating the local surroundings. Sharing information might sometimes only touch on the wholly practical questions (e.g. plant names or the history of a particular site) but over time it could develop into more detailed and nuanced information (e.g. how a site links with, and is supported by a particular faith, its congregants or by local residents).

The key point is simple: Value your volunteers! Thank them, keep in contact (emails, texts etc.), and have the occasional mini-celebration. Even tea and biscuits after work will help people feel valued.



11

Other activities

Creating awareness and harnessing interest in a bee-friendly project can be done in many ways. This section contains a variety of suggestions which can run alongside practical planting and gardening work, or be used in quieter times e.g. the winter months. They can help link the faith community to the practical work, make a project more inclusive to people unable to engage in physical work, exemplify key teachings or principles, and inspire others to try something new.

Questions you might want to keep in mind:

- **Communicate:** How do you communicate with your wider congregation/attendees/visitors to your building that you have taken action?
 - **Celebrate:** How do you, individually and as a congregation, celebrate/show gratitude/bear witness to pollinators?
 - **Participate:** How does your project encourage active participation, either collectively or individually, from members of your organisation?
 - **Reflect:** How do you as a congregation and/or individuals recognise the links and connections that exist, and reflect on changes that might occur as a result of your work?
- The following list offers an A–Z (almost!) of activities. We'd be happy to hear of other ideas.
-
- **Arts and crafts on a bee/pollinator theme.** Ideas include: designing a card, bookmark or wrapping paper with bee pictures, creating a collage or mosaic, painting tiles or printing. Make bookmarks with bee pictures, quotes and seeds attached. Make bee-themed bunting, bee flags or bee banners for decorating stalls and displays at fetes/events. Activities can be done with children, older people or with other groups within your organisation.
-
- **Autumn planting of wildflower seed and Spring bulbs** – get ready for next year.
-
- **Bee and butterfly walks:** Can be linked to identifying species or planting to attract pollinators at a particular site.
-
- **Beehives:** Consider whether your grounds are suitable for one, managed by a beekeeper.
-
- **Beeswax:** Make beeswax candles and decorate with bee-friendly flowers as a gift.
-
- **Children:** Involve Sunday school/supplementary school/after-school activities on the importance of bees and other pollinators. Hold a children's art competition.
-
- **Churchyards/burial grounds/memorial gardens:** Support pollinator-friendly planting.
-
- **Citizen science projects:** Take part in local surveys or national recording schemes.
-
- **Displays and exhibitions:** Use notice-boards or display space inside a faith building to explain what is being done within the grounds to encourage wildlife. Produce a leaflet.
-
- **DIY activities:** Make wooden insect/bug hotels, window boxes or raised gardening beds for your members or residents in nearby sheltered accommodation.

- **Edible crops** are always popular. Could you plant fruit trees or herbs?
- **Faith calendar year:** Use events to highlight the importance of bees/butterflies.
- **Flower arrangements:** Have pollinator-friendly flowers on display within a faith building accompanied by a little 'awareness' note about how easy it is to grow bee-friendly varieties.
- **Food and its various traditions (across cultures and faiths)** is an opportunity to highlight the essential role of bees and other pollinators in ensuring a continuing supply. Organise a shared lunch made with ingredients bees have pollinated (most fruit and vegetables). Hold a 'coffee morning' with bee/pollinator decorated cakes, and supply seeds and information on wildlife-friendly gardening.
- **Gardens and wildlife:** Gardens have become important sanctuaries for bees. They cover over 1 million hectares in the UK. Encourage members of the congregation to grow seed, bulbs and other plants in their own gardens. They might be able to grow some extra for donating to local projects or fundraising plant sales.
- **Habitats:** Attract pollinators with a variety of flowering plants, a 'bee hotel', and a log pile for beneficial insects. If space is limited, concentrate on making a bee friendly flower bed.
- **Harvest Festival time** (end of September-early October) is marked in many cultures as a celebration. It can be linked with seed sowing and bulb planting for next year.
- **Herbs:** Many are excellent plants for pollinators and suitable for containers and window boxes. Or include them in your planting and encourage your congregation to use them.
- **Homes for bees and pollinators:** Make a bee 'hotel' to provide nesting space for solitary bees (*see Resources*).
- **Honey:** Organise a honey tasting session – different honeys from different flowers have different tastes. Visit a beekeeper and honey bee hives.
- **Horticultural therapy projects:** Support these community projects that promote health and wellbeing by buying plants or handmade items e.g. bird feeders, bird boxes and insect boxes.
- **Identifying pollinators:** Citizen science projects and local surveys are valuable ways to create interest and involve other people. Keep a list of pollinators spotted in your grounds.
- **Jam:** Fruit trees need pollinators. Attract them with bee-friendly planting and celebrate the fruits of their labours with jam making.
- **Kitchen gardens and allotments:** Growing a variety of plants that attract different insects and companion planting can help keep pests away and avoid the need to use pesticides.
- **Learning:** Help people identify what's attractive to pollinators by planting a demonstration flower bed or herb patch within a faith building's grounds with signs and plant names.
- **National Pollinator Strategy:** Read this plan of action at www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-pollinator-strategy-for-bees-and-other-pollinators-in-england
- **Open Days:** Include a bee or wildlife display when having an Open House event.
- **Parish magazine:** Use local newsletters for sharing information on planting projects, advice on pollinator-friendly planting in people's own gardens, introduce a light-hearted dimension e.g. a bee-themed crossword or word search. (Free access programmes are available online.)
- **Pesticides:** Encourage people not to use them. Neonicotinoids have not been tested properly for their risk to wild bees and managed honey bees.

- **Photographs:** Take photos of your project as it grows, make a 'before and after' display for a notice-board. Hold a photo competition e.g. best bee-friendly garden with a few small prizes from local business supporters.
- **Planting schemes:** Celebrate your bee-friendly planting creatively, for example, use slate labels with plant names and appropriate quotes e.g. Joy.
- **Poetry and literature – in praise of bees:** Select poetry and readings about wildlife/bees as part of a sermon/shared reflection/worship/community event .
- **Pollinator-friendly plant sales and swaps:** Encourage informal seed and plant swaps within a congregation/community.
- **Queen bees:** Bumblebee queens need early spring nectar sources when they emerge from over-wintering. Plant some spring bulbs like crocus and snowdrop or wild primroses.
- **Reflection:** Make a seating area surrounded by appropriate plants in a quiet reflective space. Collect readings and verses about the value of wildlife for personal or collective reflection.
- **Seeds:** Support local seed collection activities (wildflower seed) or community seed swaps.
- **School garden projects and after school activities:** Include a project on pollinators.
- **Spiritual connections:** Include plants that have a strong cultural or spiritual significance e.g. holly, ivy, marigolds.
- **Surveys:** Monitor beneficial plants and insects within your building's grounds. Keep a list of what's spotted.
- **Talks:** Host a talk from a beekeeper and see a hive in action. Have a session on 'Gardening for Wildlife' or on identifying pollinator species.
- **Tools:** Exploit wider connections. For example, planting activities might stimulate setting up a tool collection scheme for refurbishment, sending overseas or for use locally.
- **Tree blessings:** Mark ceremonies celebrating life, the arrival of Spring and pollinators.
- **Vicarage and rectory gardens:** Include bee-friendly planting and 'bee hotels' in them.
- **Video:** Make a video of a planting project or a film explaining why pollinators are important.
- **Water:** Bees and other pollinators need it. Could you build a small pond? Or fill shallow containers with pebbles and water.
- **Wildflowers:** Constrained by space? You can still plant seeds in containers or windowboxes.
- **Wildlife gardening:** Have a talk on insect friendly/wildlife gardening and sensitive grounds management. Find out what can be done collectively and individually.
- **Willows:** Pussy willow is an excellent plant for emerging pollinators in Spring. Organise a willow weaving session into shapes to support bee-friendly planting. Particularly useful in herbaceous borders or for supporting tall plants like foxgloves.
- **Worship:** Have a sermon, teaching or service on the theme of bees, food the services they provide to us, gratitude and stewardship. Incorporate ideas into other rituals, ceremonies and celebrations.
- **Xeriscaping** is planting for dry conditions and water conservation. Mediterranean plants like rosemary, lavender, thyme and oregano are pollinator-friendly herbs.
- **Young people:** Include bees/pollinators in activities for young people (e.g. activity clubs, language classes). Think about social media opportunities too.

12

A few words on pesticides

Friends of the Earth have successfully worked to limit the use of pesticides that are damaging to the environment for over 30 years. Many gardens are run organically – without pesticides – and it should be possible to run your project in this way. (*See the Resources section for more advice.*)

There are a special group of pesticides currently (in 2015) causing much concern. These are the ‘Neonicotinoids’ – pesticides that target certain insects and have been shown in many studies to be very damaging to bees and other pollinators. The use of certain types is banned in some countries and there is a moratorium on their use across the EU at present (in place until December 2015). However in July 2015 the UK government allowed their use in certain circumstances.

Friends of the Earth believes that this was a very bad move. Dr Lynn Dicks at the University of Cambridge recently said: “We now have robust evidence that neonicotinoids have a serious impact on free-living bumblebee colonies in real farmed landscapes.” One study show that bumblebees in landscapes with treated oilseed rape produced only a third as many queens as those in landscapes treated with other insecticide sprays, but not neonicotinoids.

All this may seem a long way from your project, but if we want to protect bees and other pollinators locally we need to look to the big picture as well (*see Resources for more information*).

“New evidence indicates that climate change is increasingly a threat to bees, making it even more urgent to reduce other stressors such as pesticides, and help bees to adapt by creating high quality diverse habitat.”

Bee Coalition, November 2015

“We now have robust evidence that neonicotinoids have a serious impact on free-living bumblebee colonies in real farmed landscapes.”

Dr Lynn Dicks, University of Cambridge

13

Next steps and over to you!

This toolkit is a starting point. We hope that it gives you some ideas and information to develop your own planting schemes and supporting action. It doesn't have to be a time-limited activity; planting can be added over the years.

Find ways of enjoying and celebrating your space. It may be particularly vibrant at certain seasons and be a source of inspiration for others to try pollinator-friendly planting around their homes or in other places. Can you find ways to incorporate the space, however small, into your ongoing activities? Is there something else you could easily add to make it user-friendly or a talking point? Some places have done this by growing containers of herbs which are free for people to pick. Encourage others to get involved.

Weaving celebratory aspects into outdoor activities helps to make volunteering attractive and adds another dimension to projects. This can be as simple as sharing a picnic meal together, planting a tree or spring bulbs as a lasting reminder of what was done, or tapping into a deeper dimension through a shared ritual. This might be something which marks the passing of time, the arrival of a new season, or another phase in the growth of a project or organisation.

Publicise what you've done and include photographs and updates in your newsletters, on notice-boards and on websites and social media. If you've focused on Spring planting, perhaps next year you can add summer or autumn plants? Collect seed if using annuals and re-use it. Encourage people within the congregation to offer something they have grown.

Caring for land and our natural heritage is a responsibility, but it can also be very enjoyable and satisfying. We hope that your projects flourish!





Creating a Buzz!

Information and resources

This toolkit serves a diverse audience so a variety of resources have been listed. The organisations are some of the key information and signposting points and the suppliers list is for guidance only. Listing does not imply endorsement. The main contact address is given – please search on the site to find appropriate information and social media links.

A note about sourcing plants and suppliers

Information about the types and availability of pollinator friendly plants is getting easier to find as the plight of pollinators becomes more widely publicised. Consulting a variety of information sources and suppliers will help you develop ideas on different schemes of planting that match your local conditions and can indicate how plants and colours work well together to maximise attraction for pollinators.

Products available include: wildflower and grass seed mixes; wildflower seed only; wildflower plugs and plants; mixed collections; bulbs; herbs; hardy and half-hardy annuals; biennials; perennials; shrubs and trees. Many stockists have online ordering services, advertise in popular gardening magazines and have a range of small tools and equipment, including bug and bee 'hotels'.

When ordering online, it is advisable to check the actual delivery date as orders are often taken in advance for plants that are not despatched until their optimal planting time or until they have reached a certain size. You might also need to check with suppliers nearer the delivery date whether any adverse circumstances will delay fulfilling an order, especially if you have scheduled specific community planting times.

Two key resources

The Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) offers authoritative advice and planting guidance, including lists of pollinator-friendly plants. The RHS 'Perfect for Pollinators' logo that appears on seed packets and plant labels helps people select plants that are beneficial to bees and other pollinating insects. This 'point of sale' labelling first appeared in 2011 and its use is increasing. www.rhs.org.uk/science/conservation-biodiversity/wildlife/encourage-wildlife-to-your-garden/plants-for-pollinators

The British Beekeepers Association has a 20 page list (Gardening for Bees) which indicates the importance of certain plants in providing nectar and/or pollen by season. www.bbka.org.uk/files/library/pollen_&_nectar_rich_plants_for_your_garden_by_season_june_2011_for_website_1310045511.pdf

Some suppliers

- **British Wild Flower Plants:** Large grower of UK native plants, also supplies custom seed mixes. www.wildflowers.co.uk
- **Chilterns Seeds:** A family business based in Oxfordshire. Its catalogue includes a listing of wild flowers of the British Isles with their Latin and often fascinating English names. Seed stock includes a variety of wildflower seed mixes suitable for different habitats including pond edges, woodland and hedgerow and a special nectar and pollen mix. www.chilternseeds.co.uk
- **Emorsgate Seeds:** Specialist growers of British wild flower and wild grass seed, and mixtures for different habitats and conditions. Support Flora Locale and the Bumblebee Conservation Trust. The site includes photos and plant descriptions with preferred habitat, as well as guidance on sowing and aftercare arrangements. www.wildseed.co.uk

-
- **Habitat Aid:** Online supplier of items required for habitat restoration or new native planting schemes. The plants and seeds are sourced through their network of small specialist UK nurseries and growers. They have links with Buglife, Bumblebee Conservation Trust, British Beekeepers Association and Butterfly Conservation. The site has a short video on making a wildflower meadow. www.habitataid.co.uk
-

- **Pennard Plants:** Heritage and heirloom seeds including old fashioned flowers and pollinator-friendly mixes in distinctive hand-printed seed packets. www.pennardplants.com
-

- **Pictorial Meadows:** Supply numerous native and non-native annual and perennial seed mixes for long-flowering domestic and landscape amenity planting. Suppliers of the seed for the London Olympic Park 2012. www.pictorialmeadows.co.uk
-

- **Naturescape:** Wildflower seeds, bulbs and plants plus hedgerow plants. Wildflower catalogue and growing guide www.naturescape.co.uk
-

- **Sarah Raven:** Online supplier of a variety of wildflower seeds and plants, meadow mixes, bulbs, herbs, vegetable and fruit and other pollinator-friendly planting advice. www.sarahraven.com
-

- **RosyBee – Plants for bees:** Specialist online plant nursery for bee-friendly plants based in Oxfordshire. They also research and conduct growing trails on the best plants for bees. The website contains a short description and photograph of each plant. www.rosybee.com
-

- **The Real Seed Company:** Stockists of heritage and heirloom vegetable seeds and information on different seed saving techniques. www.realseeds.co.uk
-

- Large seed and plant suppliers include: Mr Fothergills www.mr-fothergills.co.uk; Sutton Seeds www.suttons.co.uk; Thompson and Morgan www.thompson-morgan.com and Unwins www.unwins.co.uk
-

- Your local garden centre will also carry a variety of branded wildflower seed products

and plants, as will independent nurseries. Also check out local community gardening and allotment projects for seed and plant swaps, and promotional offers available through gardening magazines, general media and shows.

Organisations

Many of these have a wealth of information available on creating and protecting habitats for all pollinators, promoting their needs and securing support for them.

Friends of the Earth (FoE) is working nationally and locally to promote policies that protect bees and other pollinators through the Bee Cause campaign: www.foe.co.uk/what_we_do/the_bee_cause_home_map_39371

FoE is also part of the **Bee Coalition**, a group of environmental organisations working together to secure the best opportunities for pollinator protection.

Oxford Friends of the Earth is one of 180 local FOE groups and encourages local action and involvement. Bees are a major focus for Oxford FoE's work and there is a network of Bee Champions across the county. The group meets monthly. www.oxfoe.co.uk

- **BBOWT (Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire Wildlife Trust):** www.bbowt.org.uk
-

- **British Beekeepers Association:** www.bbka.org.uk
-

- **Buglife – The Invertebrate Conservation Trust:** The only organisation in Europe devoted to the conservation of all invertebrates. Identification guides and promotes the 'Bee-Lines' sites linking initiative. www.buglife.org.uk
-

- **Bumblebee Conservation Trust:** Aims to help bumblebees across the UK by raising public and political awareness as well as promoting bumblebee-friendly land management and gardening. www.bumblebeeconservation.org
-

- **Butterfly Conservation:** Dedicated to saving butterflies and moths and protecting their habitats throughout the UK. www.butterfly-conservation.org

- **BWARS – Bees, Wasps and Ants Recording Society:** www.bwars.com
- **Caring for God’s Acre:** This conservation charity for churchyards and burial grounds aims to inspire and support local communities to care for these areas in a way which benefits both people and wildlife. Downloadable resources include a Churchyard and Burial Ground Action Pack and educational materials. Promotes an annual ‘Cherishing Churchyards’ week in June. www.caringforgodsacre.org.uk
- **Defra: National Pollinator Strategy (2014)** www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-pollinator-strategy-for-bees-and-other-pollinators-in-england
- **Flora Locale:** Promotes the restoration of wild plants and habitats for biodiversity, landscapes and people. Publishes advice sheets (e.g. ‘Seed Collecting and the Law’), a suppliers list of British wildflowers and a Code of Practice for supplying native plants. www.floralocale.org
- **Garden Organic:** Promotes organic gardening and horticulture. www.gardenorganic.org.uk
- **Natural Beekeeping Trust:** Aims to promote ways of beekeeping which are strongly orientated by the essential needs of the bees. www.naturalbeekeepingtrust.org
- **OPAL:** Citizen Science tools helping identification through photos and information sharing. www.opalexplornature.org
www.ispotnature.org
- **Oxfordshire Beekeepers Association:** <http://obka.org.uk>
- **Oxfordshire Natural Beekeeping Group:** An informal network sharing ideas and experiences on low-intervention beekeeping. <https://oxnatbees.wordpress.com>
- **Pesticide Action Network:** www.pan-uk.org (search on ‘bees’)
- **Plantlife:** Works to protect wild plants and fungi. Online resources include information on gardening for wildlife, wildflowers, a Meadows

Campaign, education materials and a monthly spotter’s ID guide. www.plantlife.org.uk

- **Royal Horticultural Society (RHS):** Extensive plant information for professional and lay people, plus practical wildlife-friendly gardening advice, available to non-members. www.rhs.org.uk
- **Soil Association:** Promotes sustainable organic farming and campaigns against indiscriminate pesticide use. www.soilassociation.org
- **The Thames Valley Environmental Records Centre:** Part of a national network of Local Records Centres. www.tverc.org
- **Urban Pollinators Project:** This initiative, led by University of Bristol with academic partners Reading, Leeds and Edinburgh universities, focused on insect pollinators in urban environments in the UK (2011–2014). Findings are now being released. www.bristol.ac.uk/biology/research/ecological/community/pollinators
- **Dr Judith Webb:** Oxfordshire freelance ecologist and species recorder. Website (Under ‘More’ there is a series of 1 page pollinator-friendly plant guides and gardening for pollinators presentations) www.judithwebb.weebly.com
- **Wildlife Trusts:** Promote the ‘Bees Needs’ programme: (also see BBOWT, the local Trust). www.wildlifetrusts.org/bees-needs

Miscellaneous

- **Christian Ecology Link:** www.greenchristian.org.uk
- **Church of England national resource on environmental issues and building management:** www.churchcare.co.uk
- **Islamic Foundation for Ecology and Environmental Sciences (IFEES):** www.ifees.org.uk

Glossary

- **Annual:** plants that perform their entire lifecycle from seed to flower to seed within a single growing season
- **Biennial:** plants which require two years to complete their lifecycle
- **Insecticide:** An insecticide is a substance used to kill insects. There are:
 - natural insecticides, such as nicotine, pyrethrum and neem extracts, made by plants as defenses against insects,
 - inorganic insecticides, which are metals,
 - organic insecticides, which are organic chemical compounds mostly working by contact.
- **Local provenance:** seeds collected in Britain from British plants
- **Neonicotinoids:** a class of insecticides chemically similar to nicotine. Compared to organophosphate insecticides neonicotinoids cause less toxicity in birds and mammals than insects, but a range of studies have identified adverse ecological effects, including honey-bee colony collapse disorder (CCD). Various countries restrict the use of certain neonicotinoids.
- **Perennial:** Plants that flourish for many seasons
- **Pesticide:** A pesticide is any substance used to kill, repel, or control certain forms of plant or animal life that are considered to be pests. Pesticides include herbicides for destroying weeds and other unwanted vegetation, insecticides for controlling a wide variety of insects and fungicides used to prevent the growth of moulds and mildew.
- **Pollinator:** an animal (including insects) that moves pollen from one flower to another resulting in pollination. Pollinating insects include many different species of bees and other insects such as hoverflies, beetles, flies, butterflies and moths. 8 out of 10 wild plants in Britain depend on insects for pollination.
- **Pollination:** where pollen from one flower is transferred to another flower, bringing about fertilisation. Some flowering plants are pollinated by the wind but the majority rely on this service from insects and without it plants would fail to produce seed, and in some cases, fruit.



Thanks!

Our thanks to:

- All the faith groups and their members that work with Oxford FoE on Creating a Buzz!
- Ruth Ashcroft, Ruth Conway, Ann James and Dr. Judy Webb (and others too numerous to mention!) for their help in making this work a success
- Members of Oxford FoE for their help and support
- The organisations mentioned in this guide for their resources and ideas
- Oxford Natural History Museum for help with the first Oxford Bee Summit which led to this project.

Oxford FoE is grateful to the Big Lottery Awards for All programme for their support for this project.

Design by Meg Palmer (www.thirdcolumnndesign.co.uk)
Photographs by Chris Church and Jan McHarry

November 2015

