

Sacred Spaces: churchyards for nature

Norfolk Churches Trust and Norfolk Wildlife Trust, in partnership with the Norwich Diocese, organised an afternoon of talks on churchyard management and climate change issues. This was held at St Andrew the Apostle church in Holt on Saturday afternoon 10th October.

The event focused on biodiversity, conservation, and best practice in Norfolk and Waveney churchyards, with the keynote speaker being The Rt Revd Graham Usher, Bishop of Norwich and lead bishop on environment for the Church of England.

The organisers had invited churches across the county to showcase their efforts in protecting and enhancing the biodiversity, beauty and tranquillity of their churchyards, by offering the first Norfolk Churches Trust Churchyard Conservation Award. 33 churches had compiled applications for this award, and a shortlist of four churches had been visited by a team of judges in May. Excitingly two of the four shortlisted were in our local area, Blofield Church and Hemblington church!

The winner of the Norfolk Churchyard Conservation Award was Hemblington, and the team was presented with an oak plaque together with £1,000 prize money.

The afternoon was a fine example of how people can work together to improve, enhance and protect wildlife havens such as churchyards and local nature reserves, and support local conservation groups such as Blofield & District Conservation Group BADCOG and the Bure Valley Conservation Group.

If you would like to help by joining work parties in your area, please contact your local church warden, and/or look online for BADCOG / Bure Valley Conservation Group.