

St Denis' church and churchyard / nature reserve

Update for 17th October 2023 meeting of
Hatley Parish Council

St Denis' church

National Bat Monitoring Programme

Rachel Bates, Cambridgeshire Bat Group, has signed up to contribute data from St Denis' church to the [National Bat Monitoring Programme](#), used by the government and conservation organisations to monitor the health of our environment, inform policy and improve the conservation of bats.

This will involve a couple of people recording the number and species of bats emerging from the church at dusk during the maternity roost season. We will set up a rota nearer the time to monitor the bats once a week, if possible, between April and August 2024. Members of the Bat Group will give some training and participate in surveying. Volunteers from Hatley are welcome.

Approval for this has been obtained from The Friends of Friendless Churches, which owns the building, and Revd Hilary Young on behalf of the Parochial Church Council, responsible for the churchyard.

Visits

There continues to be a small, if unpredictable, stream of local and other visitors to St Denis', some of whom sign the visitors' book – with addresses in Devon, Wales and Montana, USA.

On 20th July, Peter and Joyce welcomed 18 members of Wrestlingworth History Society for their annual

Thanks, as always, to Peter Mann for keeping an eye on the church and for opening and closing it daily, and to Nicola for sweeping the floor from time to time of bat droppings, sand and small bits of plaster and rubble.

St Denis' Churchyard / Local Nature Reserve

Scything/mowing

A group of volunteers scythed part of the northern section of the churchyard/nature reserve on 17th August – Nicola Jenkins, Kate Laugharne and her daughter Bronwen, Revd Hilary Young and Mark Wilsher.

Peter Condon and Nicola did more scything on 22nd August and Nicola finished this area by the end of August. Peter Mann then lowered the grass further with his ride-on mower. Thanks very much to all the helpers.

New management plan

Revd Hilary Young will be calling a short meeting about the draft of the new management plan for St Denis' churchyard/nature reserve which the Wildlife Trust should have ready fairly soon.