

Mission Partner prayer and update 24 May 2026 from A Rocha

The seasons feel like they are all appearing in a single week at the moment, as we enter a warm bank holiday weekend it's a wonderful time to celebrate the wonders of nature. Churches across all denominations in England and Wales will be participating in *Churches Count on Nature* (CCoN), an annual event where people visit churchyards and record the plant and animal species they encounter.

This biodiversity survey, supported by environmental charities A Rocha UK and Caring for God's Acre, as well as The Church of England and The Church in Wales, takes place from **6-14 June 2026**.

Last year, more than 380 counting events took place, with an estimated 6,000 plus participants joining in. There were events for adults, children and cross-generational groups, self-guided observations and sessions led by experts. An impressive 8,668 records were submitted, of 1,670 species! This helps to determine the distribution of these species and can help churches increase the biodiversity on their land and manage their land well.

We will be carrying out our count between 11.30am and 2pm on Monday 8 June but please keep an eye out in the weekly news in case the weather forecast requires a change! Throughout CCoN 2026, there will be a series of webinars over the five lunchtimes. This year's programme covers a variety of topics including lichens, which plants work for which butterflies, nature in urban churchyards and engaging children and school groups with wildlife. [More details can be found here](#).

Let us all remember that "*The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it*" Genesis 2.15.

Creating God, your name is written on every leaf, every bird,
every river, every stone, every living being.
We praise and worship you for the magnificence of your creation.
Make us attentive to the wounds of the earth
and willing to work for the healing of the whole creation,
through Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord.
Amen.