

Sharing our story: Holy Trinity Margate Community Garden



Our community garden project began in late 2019 with multiple objectives:

1. First, it was a practical way to offset the impact of two new housing developments taking place within our parish boundaries. We wanted to build upon the fifth of the '5 Marks of Mission' within the Anglican Communion and encourage the displaced native wildlife into a safe and inviting environment where they would be welcomed.
2. Secondly, the project serves the Godly purposes of loving service through community outreach and of building missional opportunities.

The practical outworking of this was to create somewhere that provides for rest and relaxation, that nurtures mental wellbeing and that is accessible for wheelchair users.

The volunteers created an inviting, attractive entryway to the church through a small wild woodland landscape at the edge of Margate in Kent. The church grounds have become a welcoming Christian environment. Volunteers are able to form lasting relationships which nurture emotional wellbeing and mental health from a Christ-centred perspective.

A group of volunteers from our congregation work alongside organisations who are involved in the upkeep and day-to-day running of the space.

We offer volunteers a chance to learn vital gardening skills and gain knowledge about the plant and animal species which are native to Thanet.

People with complex mental health and those who need to hone their fine motor skills are welcomed. Our raised beds are at a height of three feet to be conducive to wheelchair users and all of our pathways offer level access.

CASE STUDY



We offer participation in the planting of flowers, composting, bird feeding and housing, weeding, general maintenance, and just about anything else that our volunteers might have an interest in doing during their time in our space.

It is also a place where people gather to socialise and work together on nature-based projects. During the Covid lockdowns and 'Rule of Six' the space was invaluable to boost morale and mental wellbeing for participants in the schemes.

Several benches installed in this quiet and reflective space are often graced by members of our local community stopping to enjoy a sandwich, a chat on the phone, or just a few moments of peace before they head off to whatever is next.

Through all of this we hope Christ is glorified and that God's presence is tangible to all who spend time in the grounds of our church.

Reverend John Huffman, Assistant Curate, Holy Trinity Margate