

Sharing our story: St James Ludgershall – Meet Iggy and Jeri!



Ignatius and Jerome are our rector, Rev. Tim's sheep. They are helping St James Church, Ludgershall develop the new wildflower meadow on the north side of the church. This is part of our work as an A Rocha UK EcoChurch to care for God's earth by tending the land and creatures entrusted to us, from sheep to slowworms. St. James achieved an EcoChurch Bronze Award last year, and we are working towards a Silver Award.

The sheep are helping us in that effort, by looking after the meadow over winter. Iggy is bigger and bolder than his sister Jeri, which is how you might tell them apart. They like a stroke but may try to eat your jumper! Iggy and Jeri love eating the hedge, trimming the margins, and munching down all the grass. They have really helped the other St James churchyard workers to reduce the amount of strimming, raking, and lawn mowing required, which means we're using less petrol, as well as saving our backs a bit.

In addition, Iggy and Jeri help the wildflowers, which we are eagerly anticipating this spring. They do this by eating the grass over the winter, which means that the flowers will be able to have a head start in the race with the grass for the sun and available nutrients. If you see an area Iggy and Jeri have grazed more heavily than another, it's because the grass in that spot was really thick. We'd love for you to visit our churchyard and say hello to the sheep and have a look at the plants which are coming up. Do you see mostly grass? Or can you find something else? See if you can spot an anthill or an interesting plant.