

LAND MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR HISTON BAPTIST CHURCH GROUNDS

Our church grounds consist mainly of lawns, with some small flower beds. We also have a central courtyard which is partly covered by over hanging eaves.

Lawns

Our mowing plan follows the advice given by Diana Cook, Officer for Churchyards for the Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Northamptonshire Wildlife Trust, and is illustrated on the attached map:

- Area A, the Spring Bed, is cut at the end of May and the end of July.
- Area B, the Summer Meadow, is cut after the end of August.
- The remaining areas are cut either weekly or fortnightly throughout the spring and summer.

This means that we have areas of grass of different heights, which produce a variety of habitats for wildlife.

Flowering areas

The area of grass to be cut only at the end of August has also been sown with wildflowers, both annual and perennial. Buddleias have been planted next to it to attract butterflies.

There is a flower bed of perennial pollinator plants between the car park and the drive.

The courtyard contains a number of planters which are filled during the summer months with flowering plants. Peat free compost is used.

Wildlife provision

We have two compost bays and a dead-hedge, which contain coarse plant material, which can provide a refuge for animals and insects.

We have two nesting boxes and an 'insect hotel'. The nesting boxes are emptied and cleaned in the late summer, after the nesting season has finished.

Watering of plants

Plants in the main grounds are watered only when newly planted. A water butt provides a minimal amount of rainwater. The courtyard plants are watered with mains water, but we hope to install a water butt here.

Caroline Manser
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Histon Baptist Church – Green spaces

