

Bioblitz in Clifton Churchyard

Sun 13 August 10.30-16.00

Reverend Caren has requested a bioblitz in the churchyard and vicarage garden to investigate the variety of plant and animal life present.

A number of specialists in various aspects of natural history are being invited from Bedfordshire Natural History Society and Bedfordshire Invertebrate Group along with anyone else who might be interested. The Bedfordshire Natural History Society will also be bringing their nature table and there will be refreshments available.

Those attending will start recording and finding things from 10.30am. This means that hopefully there will be some things for interested members of the congregation to see at the end of the service as they leave. (This worked very well at All Saints, Leighton Buzzard, last year where there was a considerable amount of interest shown). Parishioners and others will be welcome to come along at any time during the day up until 4pm when we will finish. Attendees will have an opportunity to try out techniques for finding insects and other invertebrates, such as beating, sweeping, sieving and bark brushing if they wish. If there is sufficient interest either Peter Topley or Alan Outen will lead small groups around the churchyard to show them what we can find etc. A list will be compiled of all the species recorded which will of course be made available to the church. Do come along and see what is found and take the opportunity to talk to specialists.

Some BNHS Recorders and Beds Invertebrate Group members may extend their searches to other sites around the village such as the hedgerows etc along Stanford Lane, the River Ivel including the old Navigation canal and Clifton Bury, so do not be surprised to see people with nets etc. (The overall naturally occurring biodiversity recorded for the village 1 kilometre square that includes the church already stands at 2445 species).