

New Beginnings

in the churchyards of the Rutland Water Benefice

Ridlington have been working to increase biodiversity in their churchyard.

The area to the north of the church is being managed with reduced mowing and to increase the range of native species. Yellow rattle, wood avens, common knapweed and red campion have been planted and foxgloves and primroses will join them.



A small orchard of heritage varieties of fruit trees has been planted, with trees donated by Stamford Community Orchard Group.

They have organised a speaker from the charity 'A Rocha' to preach at the Benefice service in March this year, as part of working towards an Eco-Church award.

Wing people have begun a long term project to manage their churchyard sensitively, following advice from the charity 'Caring for God's Acre'. This is involving churchgoers and the wider village community.

Surveys of vegetation, animals, lichen and insects have been undertaken with the assistance of experts. One exciting find discovery was of a snail rare to Rutland.



A plan has been drawn up to manage different areas in different ways, to provide a range of different habitats in the mature areas of the churchyard, while maintaining the open areas.

An old survey of the gravestones is being updated and revised with the addition of photographs. Signs will be placed in areas under transition so that visitors will understand what is taking place.