

ST STEPHEN'S AND ST MARY'S CHARLCOMBE ECO TRAIL

A family friendly nature walk for all weathers!

The trail is a mile long and approximately a 30 minute walk (but allow more time if you're answering the questions). The route is suitable for reasonably fit individuals and can be enjoyed in all seasons. The walk is dog friendly and suitable for children. This eco quiz is aimed at older children and there is one available for younger children too! Note to parents; you might like to download a free bird identifying app on your phone such as Merlin Bird ID which will help your children identify which birds are singing as you walk.

Start: ST STEPHEN'S CHURCH

The church is usually open on Saturday mornings.

The church is full of beautiful stained-glass windows and carvings. Explore the building. Can you find images of all these things

- Animals and Birds
- Trees, plants and fruit
- Flowers of different colours
- The Sun, the moon, stars, and the sea

If you like, write down the different animals you find. How many different colours of flowers are there?

Now discover the garden at the back of the church. It is being turned into a wildlife garden.



Can you spot:

- Any bee, butterfly or bug hotels?
- Any nesting boxes for birds?
- Flowers to attract the bees?

If you lift up a stone, what can you see under it?

Directions:

Turn left out of St Stephen's garden to walk up the hill along Richmond Road until you reach Charcombe Lane.

As you walk, can you find an unusual road sign along the lane with a picture on it?

Fact: Every February and March, this lane is closed to cars. Volunteers help over 3,000 of these creatures across the road so that they can reach the lake below the lane where they can breed and have young ones.

- What different kinds of insects can you spot? You might find some in the hedgerows.

- Can you see any wild flowers growing?
- Can you notice any animals in the gardens, fields or hedgerows as you pass?

Fact:

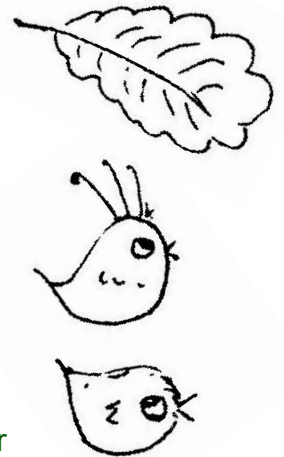
Hedgerows provide nesting sites, food sources and shelter for animals, birds and insects. They attract bees which helps pollinate the crops, so farmers like them too! Hedgerows provide secret paths for animals to be able to travel safely. Their roots keep the soil in place.

- Look at the trees that you pass. Leaves have different shapes to catch sunlight and rain. Can you find three different leaf shapes?

FACT: trees and shrubs suck in harmful carbon dioxide gas. A single broadleaf tree (such as an oak or horse chestnut) stores about 2.9 tonnes of carbon in its lifetime.

FACT: The cooling impact of millions of trees altogether helps to reduce the effects of rising summer temperatures due to climate change.

FACT: The fallen leaves gather under trees and hedgerows to make 'leaf litter'. This provides a warm, safe place for animals and insects to shelter from the winter weather.



Directions:

Keep walking along Charlcombe Lane until you reach the Jane Austen wall plaque on the right, and a stone water trough on the left. Turn left up and into the marked Public Footpath and walk along to St Mary's Church.

St Mary's, Charlcombe: This little church is the oldest church building in Bath.

Explore the building and look at the stained glass and the carved ends of the pews.

Can you find any of these?

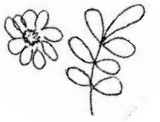
- **Animals and birds**
See if you can spot any of these: a dog, 2 sheep and a lamb, pelicans, a rabbit, a bull and a dove.
- **Trees and plants**
Can you find any of these? Oaks, vines, palms, a corn sheaf

- **Flowers**

Are you able to spot more than one kind of flower?

- **Fruits**

Can you find different kinds of fruit? There are four to find if you want to.



Finally, go outside into the Quiet Garden below the church. Can you find the Holy Well?

As you enjoy the peace of the garden, can you hear birdsong?

If an adult with you has a bird identifier app on their phone, you can identify all the different kinds of birds that you can hear!

Congratulations – you have now finished the trail! We hope you enjoyed it!

On your way back, you might want to stop at St Stephen's Millenium Green to sit, play or have a picnic. It's a lovely place to enjoy nature.

