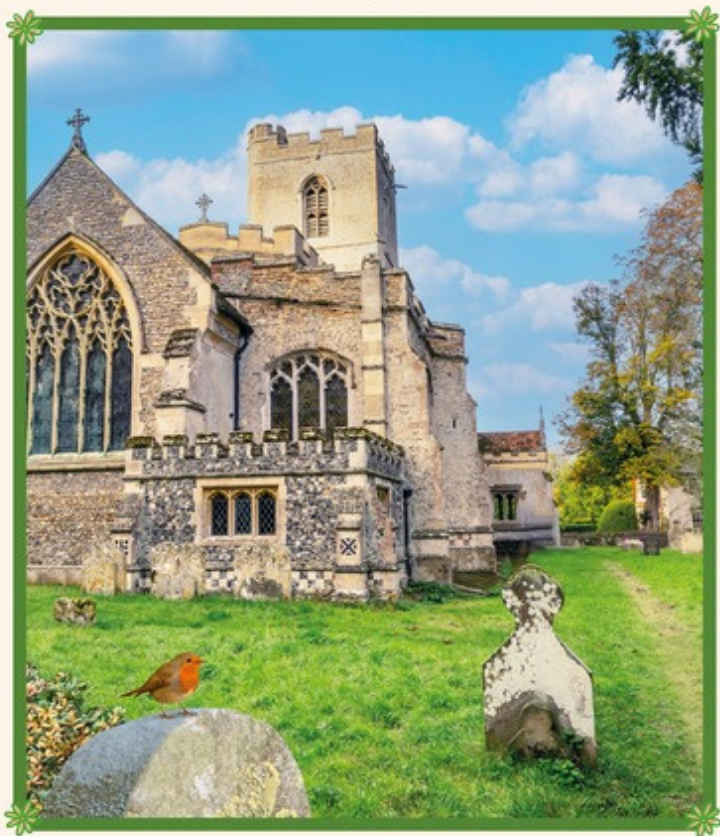




St LAWRENCE CHURCH GREAT WALDINGFIELD

NATURE TRAIL

A circular walk around the Churchyard
and Old School Wood





St LAWRENCE CHURCH NATURE TRAIL

Please keep dogs under control.
Respect the wildlife and other visitors.
ENJOY THE TRAIL!



- | | |
|-------------------------|------------------------|
| 1 ST LAWRENCE CHURCH | 11 HAZEL COPPICE |
| 2 OLD GRAVEYARD | 12 JUBILEE OAK |
| 3 CHURCH MEADOW | 13 OSWALD THE OWL |
| 4 ORCHARD | 14 FOREST SCHOOL |
| 5 OLD MEADOW | 15 STAG BEETLE PYRAMID |
| 6 NATIVE SHRUBS | 16 THE MOUND |
| 7 MAIN ENTRANCE | 17 THE TOP PATH |
| 8 YEW CIRCLE | 18 CHALK BANK |
| 9 POND & OSIER BED | 19 HOMES FOR WILDLIFE |
| 10 BIRD FEEDING STATION | |



- 1 ST. LAWRENCE CHURCH.** Old buildings are good homes for wildlife. Pipistrelle bats roost here and there is a colony of honey bees in the church tower.
- 2 OLD CHURCHYARD.** There is a 'bug hotel' in this corner. Old gravestones have rare lichens growing on them. There are mature trees including oak, sycamore and yew, under which are wonderful snowdrop displays in early spring.
- 3 CHURCH MEADOW.** Here you move from the churchyard into Old School Wood community woodland. On your left is an ancient oak tree 5 metres in girth. The hay meadow is full of wild flowers in spring and early summer before being mown in late summer. There is a wildlife pond and seating area.
- 4 ORCHARD.** This is a traditional orchard with mostly local heritage varieties of apple, pear, plum and cherry. Look for spring blossom and autumn fruit.
- 5 OLD MEADOW.** This is more mature and damper than church meadow and is important for butterflies and other insects using the wild flowers. Please keep to the paths.
- 6 NATIVE SHRUBS.** At least a dozen species of shrub are here with nuts and berries in autumn.
- 7 MAIN ENTRANCE** to wood with signboard.
- 8 YEW CIRCLE** with 'north pole' showing compass direction of north. Foxgloves grow here.
- 9 POND AND OSIER BED.** Good place to sit and watch for visiting wildlife. In the pond are newts and in season are numerous dragonflies. The osiers are cut to provide thin stems for willow weaving, such as the low fence here.
- 10 BIRD FEEDING STATION.** Common visitors are tits and finches.
- 11 HAZEL COPPICE.** Most of the wood is planted with a mixture of native trees such as oak, ash, lime, hornbeam, birch and cherry. Here we have a stand of hazel which is 'coppiced' (cut just above the ground) every few years to provide straight stems for stakes and sturdy fences. It is potentially a home for dormice.
- 12 JUBILEE OAK.** Planted for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. Grown from an acorn collected from a royal estate.
- 13 OSWALD THE OWL.** He is carved into a living oak tree at the entrance to THE GLADES. This mixed woodland was planted in the 1980s, mainly with oak and ash. Natural competition has resulted in some individual trees thriving and others dying. We hope this will become a bluebell wood.
- 14 FOREST SCHOOL.** Used by local schoolchildren and scout groups to learn outdoors.
- 15 STAG BEETLE PYRAMID.** A home of partly buried logs suitable for our largest beetle.
- 16 THE MOUND.** Fun to climb with a seat on top and good views.
- 17 THE TOP PATH.** Traditional hedge laying can be seen on the boundary bank along with hedgerow flowers. Log piles beside the path are refuges for insects and lizards.
- 18 CHALK BANK.** Installed in 2025 and sown with a specialised mixture of wild flowers. Different aspects face the sun through the day. Look for basking minibeasts.
- 19 HOMES FOR WILDLIFE.** As you return to the old churchyard, note on your left a 'dead hedge' of stacked branches, home to wrens and rabbits. You may also notice, attached to trees, bat boxes and bird nesting boxes, including two barn owl boxes. Installed in the church tower are swift nest boxes, which you cannot see, but in spring we play swift call recordings to attract them to a possible new home in 'God's Acre'.

Piecing Together our Heritage project is made possible with The National Lottery Heritage Fund. Thanks to National Lottery players, we have been able to restore St Lawrence Church historic reredos and share its story with our community.