

Living alongside bats in churches

Over the last year, the Bat Conservation Trust has been running a special grant called the Living Alongside Bats in Churches grant. Places of worship can get up to £1,000 to help with things like cleaning up bat droppings or urine, which can sometimes make a bit of a mess inside the building.

One church that took part is **St Margaret's**

Church in Westthorpe, Suffolk. They used the grant to buy a new cordless Dyson Hoover to clean up the bat droppings

more easily. They also had a special tray made to protect one of their old, historic objects from bat urine.



In return for the money, the churches also need to host a fun, nature-themed event for the local community – because bats are amazing and great to learn about!

For their nature event, children from the local primary school, Walsham le Willows CEEVC, visited the church. Their Eco Club explored the ancient



St Margaret's Church, Westthorpe

churtyard and learned about the bugs and animals that live there; they enjoyed searching in and around different areas of the churchyard looking for wildflowers and spotting and identifying insects. The Suffolk Wildlife Trust lent them equipment and specimen jars to look more closely at tiny creatures.

They were taken into the church and showed the bat roost, and found out all about the bats that live in the church roof. The children had such a great time that they asked to learn even more about bats – so the church is now planning a special bat talk with the Suffolk Bat Group!



This grant is a great way to help people and bats live happily together – and it might even inspire some young bat workers of the future!

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