

Support

Please help us to continue our work to care for God's world by making a donation. A regular monthly gift of £10 could register a church to the Eco-Congregation scheme and provide the help and advice they need to attain their Eco-Congregation Award.

Please return the Standing Order form to the FREEPOST address below, or send a cheque payable to 'A Rocha UK' or you can donate on-line at arocha.org.uk

Set up a new standing order:

Your Bank/Building Society Name

Your Bank/Building Society Address

Account Name _____

Sort Code | | Account Number _____

Beneficiary Details:

Please pay A Rocha UK

£ _____ per month /quarter/year (please delete as appropriate)

Commencing on | | 20 _____ until further notice

Signature(s) _____

Where signing mandate dictates both / all to sign, all parties must authorise instruction.

Date | | 20 _____

giftaid it Yes I'm a UK tax payer, please make my gift go 25% further with Gift Aid (please tick)

Please treat as Gift Aid donations all qualifying gifts of money made by me today, in the past 4 years or in the future. I confirm I have paid or will pay an amount of Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax for each tax year (6 April to 5 April) that is at least equal to the amount of tax that all the charities or Community Amateur Sports Clubs (CASCs) that I donate to will reclaim on my gifts for that tax year. I understand that other taxes such as VAT and Council Tax do not qualify. I understand the charity will reclaim 25p of tax on every £1 that I have given or give. All boxes must be completed in order for your request to be processed.

Name _____

Address _____

Signature _____

Date | | 20 _____

Please return the completed form to:

A Rocha UK, FREEPOST RSSB-SCBG-CSKR,
18 Avenue Road, Southall, Middlesex, UB1 3BL

Bat Detectors

One of the easiest ways to find out if bats are using your church building is to use a bat detector.



A Rocha UK has bat detectors that can be freely loaned to churches wanting to discover the different species that rely on their buildings for shelter. To request a bat detector, please email us at battychurches@arocha.org or call us on 020 8574 5935. Alternatively, you can complete the tear-off slip attached to this leaflet and return it to the address provided.



HOW TO BE A BAT-FRIENDLY CHURCH

Many people may associate bats with evil and darkness, but they are part of God's creation that he described as 'very good' (Genesis 1:31). Bats play an important role in our ecosystems, but are increasingly under threat in the UK as a result of human-orchestrated habitat loss (e.g. the removal of woodlands and insect-rich meadows). Consequently, all bats in the UK are now protected by law, and church buildings have become extremely important as roosting and/or hibernation sites for bats.

Bat Facts

- There are 18 species of bat living in the UK, 17 of which are known to breed here. Some are very rare; it is thought that there is just one Greater Mouse-eared bat left in England.
- In 2010, a new bat species was discovered living in the UK: the Alcahoie bat. It was so similar to other bats that it had been undetected until it was identified as a separate species by DNA analysis. It is one of Britain's smallest bats, weighing 3.5-5.5g with a wingspan of around 20cm.
- The largest bat in the UK is the Noctule, weighing up to 40g with a wingspan of 33-45cm.
- All UK bats eat insects, but each species has favourites and hunts in a unique way. Most prey items are caught and eaten in mid-air, though sometimes bats hang up to eat larger insects or spiders. Flying uses up a lot of energy so bats need to eat lots; the Soprano/Common Pipistrelle can eat up to 3000 tiny insects in a single night.

arocha.org.uk

For more information about caring for God's earth, visit the A Rocha UK website: arocha.org.uk. You'll find details there of our practical conservation and environmental education initiatives, as well as a wealth of ideas for caring for God's earth in the course of everyday life. If you would like to support the work of A Rocha UK financially, you can make a donation online, or you can complete the form opposite and return it to the FREEPOST address provided.

For more detailed information about bats, visit the Bat Conservation Trust website: bats.org.uk



Bats and Churches



A Brown Long-eared bat

The Bible tells us that we are created beings, part of the whole community of creation, joining together to praise God (Psalm 148). However, we have also been given a special task: to look after the rest of what God has made (Genesis 1:26-28; 2:15). We are to reflect God's own sustaining care for creation (Psalm 65:9-13; Matthew 10:29; Hebrews 1:3; Colossians 1:16-17). This is not an optional extra for a few keen environmentalists, but a fundamental part of what it means to be a human being made in the image of God, and a follower of Christ.

It is a sad truth that the many problems our world and its inhabitants face are caused by human activity. According to the Bible, our wrongdoing has ecological consequences (Hosea 4:1-3; Amos 8:1-8). The good news is that God's plan of salvation encompasses not just us, but all that he has made (Colossians 1:19-20); and that includes bats!



A Brown Long-eared bat

Caring for Bats in Your Church

If space is available, create an area in the church grounds that includes tall grasses, wildflowers and maybe a small pond. These will all attract insects that bats feed on.

There are a number of practical steps you can take to look after your church and help bats. Bat urine and droppings pose no known significant health risk in the UK. However, sometimes they can cause damage to soft furnishings and polished surfaces. Covers, appropriate cleaning, deflector boards and vertical screens can help to protect these. Advice can be sought on keeping bats away from the most sensitive areas of the church. But to take any action that may affect a bat roost you should consult with your Statutory Nature Conservation Organisation (SNCO) such as Natural England.



Bat boxes

For more help and information



A Whiskered bat

There is also a *National Bat Helpline* (0845 1300 228) which can provide your church with support and all the information you need on a range of topics from concerns you may have about having bats in your church, to ways of providing help for UK bats and what to do if you find a grounded bat on the church premises. A Rocha UK can supply more information on bat boxes too, and ways of encouraging bats to roost in the area surrounding your church.

You MUST not attempt to move or disturb bats without first contacting the *National Bat Helpline* or your SNCO. Both can provide support and advice on how to resolve any bat related issues for your church or church yard.

More information

For more information about caring for God's earth, including how your church can work towards becoming recognised as an A Rocha UK Eco-Congregation, please fill in the form below and return it to the FREEPOST address printed at the bottom of this page.

Church name

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Church address

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Name of contact at church

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Church telephone number

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Church email address

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We would like to request a bat detector to use in our church

The details you supply will be stored by A Rocha UK and maybe stored by A Rocha International (Registered Charity No. 1136041). If you do not live in the UK your details may also be passed to the A Rocha National Organisation in the country of the address you have given. The details will be stored in compliance with the Data Protection Act and will not be supplied to others without your permission.

A Rocha UK,
FREEPOST RSSB-SCBG-CSKR,
18 Avenue Road,
Southall,
Middlesex,
UB1 3BL

Telephone: 0208 574 5935
Email: uk@arocha.org

