



YOUR LEGACY

PLANTING SEEDS FOR TOMORROW

Caring for God's Acre, Registered Charity no: 1155536
11 Drover's House, Auction Yard, Craven Arms, SY7 9BZ



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Why burial grounds are important

There are over 20,000 burial grounds in England and Wales, ranging from small rural medieval churchyards to large Victorian city cemeteries, spanning different cultures, religions and centuries.

Appealing to many who are interested in local history and the natural world, burial grounds encapsulate the history of communities whilst offering refuge for our native wildlife.

Because burial grounds have been a dedicated green space for years, sometimes centuries, their plant and animal life is often rich and diverse. Our input can help to preserve rare species of plants and wildflowers by advising on management of grassland to encourage wildlife whilst still allowing access to visitors and relatives.

We offer support to all who are managing these special places as well as enthusing everyone to discover more about these fascinating sites.



Why your will is important

Making a will is important to ensure that your wishes are carried out, that your loved ones are looked after and the causes that matter to you continue to be supported. Without a will, your estate could be divided in a way which does not follow your wishes.

Leaving a gift to Caring for God's Acre will help to ensure that our work continues. Your gift will allow us to keep supporting burial ground volunteers, offering advice, guidance and enthusiasm. We will be able to reach more people, raising awareness of the importance of burial grounds for people and wildlife. Preserving and encouraging wildlife is one of our top priorities so your legacy will continue to thrive and grow.

At the same time, we understand that family and friends always come first. There is never any pressure applied by us - you are free to take your time over deciding to leave a legacy gift and you can change your mind at any time.

Why support Caring for God's Acre?



Established in 2001, we are the national charity supporting and advising those who care for and care about burial grounds.

Our staff includes experienced ecologists with a wealth of experience of working in churchyards, chapel yards and cemeteries. We also have specialists working in monument recording and heritage preservation.



Every year we organise events and support others in running their own activities in hundreds of burial grounds nationwide. These introduce a wide range of people to these fascinating places that are buzzing with biodiversity and history.

We support and inspire through conferences, webinars, films, printed and web-based resources, volunteer activities and much more.



**Your gift
will help to
support:**

the built heritage of burial grounds -
ancient stones and their inscriptions and
the often rare and unusual lichens that grow
upon them;

awareness-raising of the nature of burial
grounds as living sanctuaries of wildlife and
heritage, deserving of protection;

the conservation of a plants, animals,
fungi and lichens, a complex web often
undisturbed for centuries.



For many people,
their local burial ground is the only
accessible green space near them and yet
many cemeteries and graveyards are being
closed down and developed or neglected.

Caring for God's Acre is raising the
profile of burial grounds through our
growing national presence, our outreach
and by showcasing exemplars in good
management.



**Help us continue our vital work in keeping burial grounds beautiful, accessible
and connected to their communities by leaving us a gift in your will**

Caring for God's Acre: the story so far

The Shropshire Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty begins a two year project, named 'Caring for God's Acre' after the Henry Wadsworth Longfellow poem. Its aim is to support groups to manage their churchyards/other burial grounds in a way that is sensitive to people, wildlife and heritage.

1997

The two year project has ended with great feedback from those involved. The original national Living Churchyard and Cemetery Project asks us if we would like to take on the national role as the project is coming to an end. We agree, trustees are recruited and we are now a registered charity working across England and Wales.

2000

We start our five year Churchyard Task Team project, funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund. Many volunteers join the team.

2003

We begin National Cherishing Churchyards Week

2010

HRH the Prince of Wales becomes president of Caring for God's Acre

2011

2013

We upgrade our main advice material including our popular Action Pack and translate many resources into Welsh

We create educational resources in English and Welsh for primary schools

2014

2016

Lichfield Diocese become our first Diocesan Member

Our most ambitious project begins - the Beautiful Burial Ground Project - putting burial grounds on the map nationally by revealing their hidden heritage and importance to biodiversity

The Churchyard Task Team volunteers reach over 10,000 hours of voluntary work and receive the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service

2018

2019

Cherishing Churchyard's Week becomes larger - with over 200 events spanning 34 counties. Due to demand from communities managing burial grounds other than churchyards the week is renamed 'Love your Burial Ground Week'.

Two Welsh Projects - Biodiversity Hotspots Across Wales and Welsh Burial Grounds for Wildlife began.

A Beautiful Burial Grounds portal is created within the National Biodiversity Network Atlas - the first of its kind. This system enables anyone to check what wildlife has been recorded in a particular burial ground.

Restrictions alter plans! The staff rise to the challenge of continuing to provide support during restrictions and a very popular series of webinars begins.

2020

2022

Our Marches-based Opening the Ark project begins. This project facilitates the spread of biodiversity found within burial grounds back out into the wider local area.

The Beautiful Burial Ground Project ends. An astonishing 10,220 different species have been recorded within burial grounds and approximately 20,000 people were involved.

Types of Legacy

There are three ways of leaving a legacy in your will.

1) A share of your estate, called a residuary legacy, is left as a percentage of your estate once all expenses and other gifts have been paid out. This can be a useful way of ensuring that gifts remain in proportion to those left to family and friends.

2) A fixed sum of money - known as a pecuniary legacy.

3) Or perhaps you might leave something of value, such as shares, property, or jewellery.

Once you have drawn up your will with the help of an advisor, make sure to keep it safe and up-to-date and notify your executors where it can be found.

Other Ways to Donate

If you aren't able to commit to leaving us a gift in your will, then you might consider:

- a one-off donation via our website at <https://bit.ly/cfga-donate>
- setting up regular giving via a monthly sum
- requesting fundraising in your memory through a sponsored event or coffee morning or a JustGiving page
- asking family & friends to give money in lieu of flowers, via a collection box or envelopes

Next Steps



We recommend that you talk to a solicitor about the type of gift you might like to leave to Caring for God's Acre.

You will need to give them our details, which are:
Caring for God's Acre, 11 Drovers House,
The Auction Yard, Craven Arms, Shropshire, SY7 9BZ
enquiries@cfga.org.uk

We are a registered charity, no. 1155536,
company no. CE000722

If you would like to speak to
Anna Wilde, our Legacy Manager,
call 01588 673041 or
email anna@cfga.org.uk

