

Caring for God's Acre Annual Report 2023-2024 Summary

Our Annual Report for the year to 30th April 2024 is now available. To request a digital copy please email info@cfga.org.uk. We are really proud of all that we have achieved and here are a few of the highlights....

Our communication reach continues to grow with more people viewing our website, particularly our Resources area which saw 11,000 files of useful information downloaded. Our social media continues to increase and over 4,500 people now receive our e-newsletter; if you are not yet one of these then please sign up here: bit.ly/cfga-newsletter

Approximately 20,000 new biological records from burial grounds have reached the NBN atlas and can be viewed by everyone. We have been collating churchyards and cemeteries that are listed as Local Wildlife Sites; we now have information from most counties and there are 581 sites recorded. These will be amongst the richest in wildlife in the UK. We know that burial grounds hold many rare and endangered species, with 2,927 Red Data List species recorded.

We now have a formal role giving Environmental Support to the Church of England and produced 3 new spotters guides as part of this.



Spotter's Guides to Fungi, Corvids, and Swifts, Swallows and House Martins

Two new grant funded projects started this year:

Our Digital Ancestors began in March 2024 and will run for 4 years. This is a people based project, running in parallel to churchyard mapping through the Burial Ground Management System. Over the next decade the Church of England is working with AG Intl to map all Church of England burial grounds which give permission. Our Digital Ancestors is a training project, we will introduce people to this system and show them how it can

be used for historical investigation and family history and also, how to take that investigation further using archived material.

Heritage to Inspire is based within Shrewsbury Cemetery and we are working in partnership with their Friends group. The 30-acre site is something of a hidden gem. It was originally laid out in 1856 as a ‘garden of remembrance’ and is now designated as a local wildlife site on account of the wildflowers and fungi found within it. However, the site is little visited by the public, so this project aims to invite local people to step inside the cemetery to discover more about this treasure on their doorstep.

Two core projects continue to go from strength to strength:

God’s Acre Volunteers project is on-going and the team have been active now for over two decades. We’ve given advice, support or practical assistance to burial grounds in Shropshire, Herefordshire and Powys. The support of our enthusiastic volunteers is vital in enabling this to happen and thanks go to them for their fantastic efforts and continued support. God’s Acre Volunteers keep our charity grounded and practical, we remain in touch with the day-to-day issues faced by those caring for these special places.

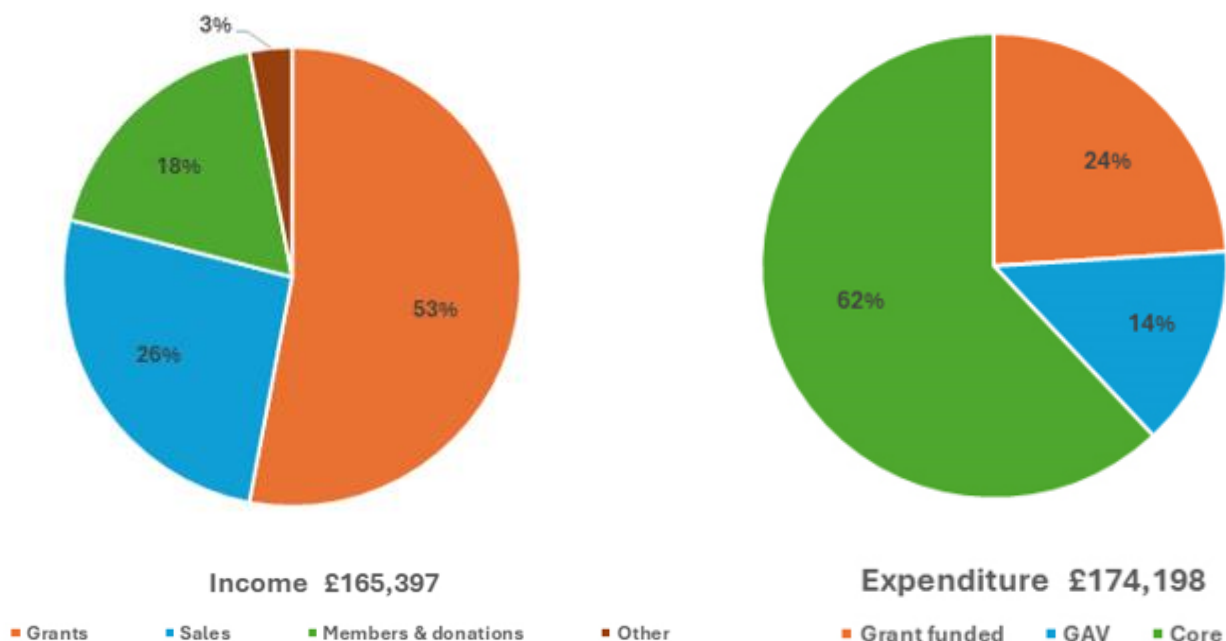
Churches Count on Nature is a partnership between Caring for God’s Acre, the Church of England, the Church in Wales and A Rocha UK (a Christian charity who run the Ecochurch award). Churches of all denominations are encouraged to take part in Churches Count on Nature and to run biological recording events during Love Your Burial Ground Week in early June.

Core Activities involve:

- Support** of those who manage **burial grounds** of all types
- Charity and project **development** plus general fundraising
- General management** of the charity, its staff, governance and office

Publicity and Promotion:

As well as project work, we achieve our aims by running a **webinar season** in autumn and winter including an **online AGM** with guest speaker. We offer support and advice via our **online** and **printed resources** and through consultancy work including **management briefs** and **virtual visits**. We work in **partnership** with churches, dioceses, local authorities, universities as well as heritage and wildlife organisations.



Thank you to all our members, supporters, partners, volunteers and funders.