

This section challenges you to find out more about the Bats in Churches project, the wonderful world of bats, and the history and treasures inside your local church. You can find out more about Bats in Churches at batsinchurches.org.uk and check our churches map to see if your local church is involved with the Bats in Churches project.

WATCH OUR SHORT VIDEO ABOUT BATS IN CHURCHES

Find it at batsinchurches.org.uk click on The Bats In Churches Project

SEE HOW MUCH YOU KNOW ABOUT BATS IN CHURCHES

Try to describe the project to another person. This can be someone in your group, a friend or member of your family.

Fill in our Bats in Churches worksheet to see how much you can remember.

UNDERSTAND THE PEOPLE WHO HELP BATS AND CHURCHES

Read the **Church User Cards** to help you think about bats in churches from different viewpoints.

What is it like to be a bat in a church, or a church warden looking after the church with bats?

What about a visitor or a member of the congregation?

DISCOVER THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF BATS

Check out the Bat Conservation Trust website bats.org.uk for lots of fun facts about our only flying mammal. Read our **Wonderful World of Bats** fact sheet and then play our **True or False Bat Quiz**.

DISCOVER ENGLAND'S AMAZING CHURCHES

There are 16,000 Church of England parish churches.

You can find them by looking on A Church Near You website achurchnearyou.com Over 350 churches are managed by the Churches Conservation Trust visitchurches.org.uk

Fill in the Amazing Churches worksheet to see how much you know about churches.



CHURCHES S

Bats in Churches Worksheet

	My Name:			
Whe	ere is your neares	st church?		
What is the na	ame of your local	Bat Group , Mam	mal Group or Wild	dlife Trust?
Use the word clues get stuck just move	in the box at the		age to fill in the bl	
Bats and churches a	are wonderful exa	amples of cultural	and natural	, but
they can sometime	come into	Chur	ches are importan	t
sites for bats and ha	ve provided a saf	e 1	from	loss for many
		years.		
Bats eat a huge numand Thes Lots of droppings ar	e can cause and o nd urine also need and others	to chuther historic objet to be to be should be to be the the the the better the the the the the the better the the better the bette	urch statues, wall p cts. up which puts ne church. Large b	a lot of pressure
insects	droppings	puts people off co	roosting	habitat
church wardens	conflict	smelly	urine	haven
Made possible with	cleaned	damage		
CAR				

My Name:	
•	

Amazing Churches Worksheet

What is the name of your local church?

Use the word clues in the box at the bottom of the page to fill in the blanks. TIP: If you get stuck just move on to the next blank and then see what words you haven't used at the end!

	parish (
Christian faith and of	the people who lived	nearby. Some parish	churches are	of years old.
Many churches have	where	people are buried. T	hese are often ric	h in and the
insects that feed on	them. The insects prov	vide a rich sou	irce for	_ and other creatures
such as bats.				
Inside you will find th	ne main part of the ch	urch where the	sits. T	his is called the
At one end	there is usually a	which house	s the holy table o	r Some
	talls in the chancel for			
Some. but not all. ch	urches have a	with bells for ringi	ng before service	and at other times, and
				he main entrance door.
	ght find in a church are			
carvings, where the	congregation sits and s	small embroidered cu	shions called	for praying.
Many churches also	have special stands ca	lled for h	olding the Christi	an holy book, the
Finally,	you may also see a ra	ised platform where t	he priest stands t	o give the sermon. This
is called a	_·			
birds	food	wildflowers	nave	churchyards
birus	1000	wiidiioweis	Have	Churchyarus
		places of		
thousands	congregation	worship	altar	kneelers
		•		
chancel	font	choir	tower	pews

Bible



lecterns



pews

pulpit



True or False Bat Quiz

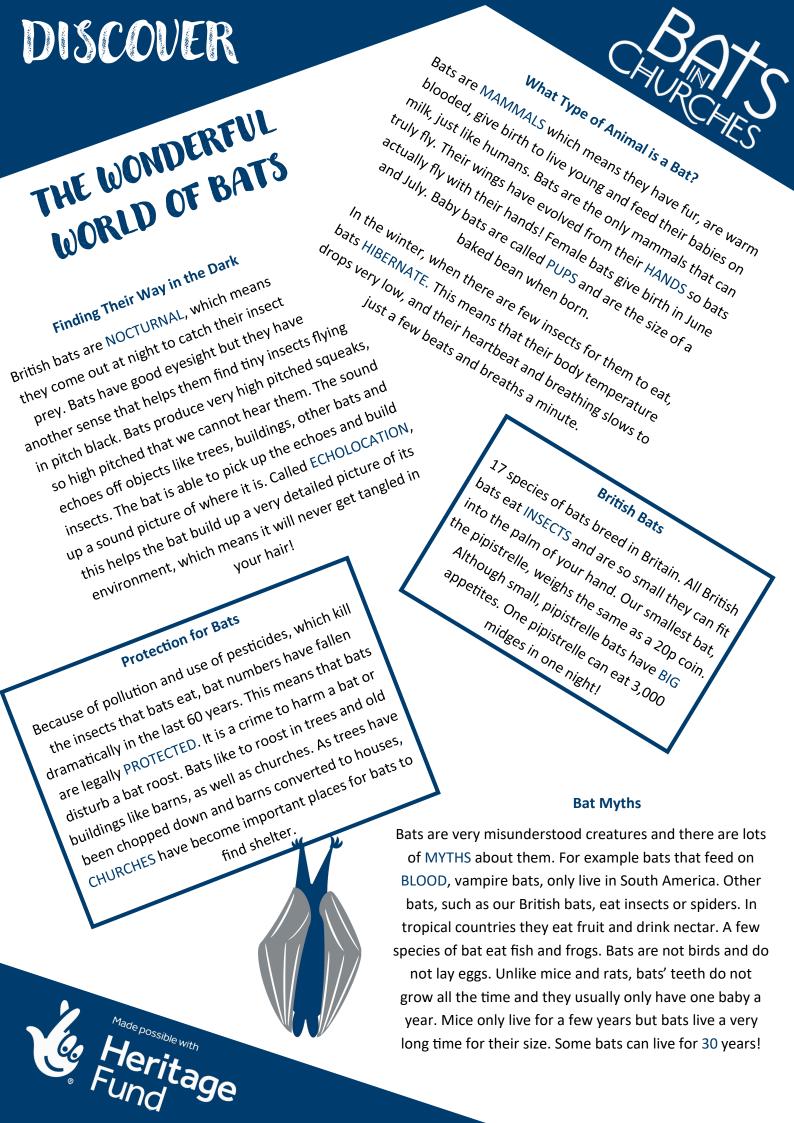
After you have read the Wonderful World of Bats factsheet, stand in a space so you can spread your arms out. Someone else reads out the 20 statements about bats and you need to decide whether they are true or false. If you think they are true you can flap your hands like a bat. If you think they are false you must stand completely still.

- 1. Bats fly with their hands
- 2. Bats are birds with fur
- Bats are blind 3.
- 4. Most bats suck blood
- 5. 17 bat species breed in the UK
- 6. Bats lay eggs
- 7. A pipistrelle bat can eat 3,000 midges in one night
- 8. Bats are flying mice
- 9. Bats can live for 30 years
- A new born pipistrelle bat is the size of a baked bean 10.
- Bats can get tangled in your hair 11.
- 12. Bats hibernate in winter
- 13. Vampire bats live in Britain
- All British bats eat insects 14.
- The smallest British bat weighs the same as a 20p coin 15.
- 16. Bats use sound to find their way around in the dark
- 17. Mother bats feed their babies with blood
- 18. Bats sometimes roost in churches
- Baby bats are called pups 19.
- 20. Bats are specially protected by law





13 F; 14 T; 16 T; 16 T; 17 F; 18 T; 19 T; 20 T 11; 21; 31; 41; 21; 61; 71; 81; 91; 101; 111; 121;



long time for their size. Some bats can live for 30 years!

CHURCH USER CARDS SHEET ONE



CHURCH WARDEN

My job is to look after the church and make it a safe and welcoming place.

I spend most of my time cleaning up after the bats. This is hard work and not very pleasant. It puts people off coming to the church.

Because the bat poo and urine damage things, I have to cover up our precious objects and then visitors can't see them.

I like bats but they are a nuisance inside the church.

It doesn't seem fair that bats have more legal protection than people who use this church. I love my church and it would make me very sad if it had to close because of the bats.



BAT

I really like living here. This place is just like the old tree where my mum used to roost, until humans chopped it down to make way for a road.

I was born here and live with my mum and her sisters up in the roof. It is nice and warm.

All my friends are here and we have a great time swooping about.

There are lots of tasty midges and insects to eat outside which means I never go hungry.

I love living here and it would make me very sad if I was forced to leave. In fact, I would probably die and so would most of my batty friends.

BAT AND WILDLIFF LOVER

People are responsible for destroying bats' natural habitats, such as old trees, so they need to use our buildings, including churches. Like us, bats need somewhere safe to live.

Churchyards are great for bats and other wildlife. The bats tells us that there are lots of insects here, which also provide food for other animals like birds.

Bats are legally protected, and many bat species are endangered. It is a criminal offence to disturb a bat roost or harm a bat.

I wonder if there is some way to help the church with its bats? Perhaps I can put up some bat boxes, or run a bat walk?

I really like using my bat detector and watching bats flitting about catching midges and other insects. It would make me very sad if the bats were not here.

CHURCH USER CARDS SHEET TWO



MEMBER OF THE CONGREGATION

Churches are places of worship not bat houses.

The bats in this church make such a mess and they are very smelly; they put me off coming to services.

I can't see why stopping the bats from using the church would be such a problem. There are lots of other places for them to live.

The bat poo and urine has damaged some lovely old brasses and wall paintings.

Some people no longer want to visit or get married in the church because of the bats.

I really like coming to church and it would make me very sad if the church had to close because of the bats.



CHURCH VISITOR



I really like visiting old churches and finding out about their history and heritage.

Churches are so peaceful. I'm not religious but I just like to sit and soak up the stillness.

Lots of churches have bats and I don't really mind them. I know that lots of people find bats really interesting.

I'd like to know more about the bats in this church. I wonder what species are here?

It's a shame there's bat poo on some of the pews. It must take a lot of effort to clean.

It would make me sad if I couldn't visit old churches because of the bats.

VICAR



I love my job looking after people's spiritual and material needs.

I enjoy holding the Sunday service here in this beautiful old church and meeting members of the congregation.

Lots of churches in this parish have bats and I know quite a lot of the congregation don't like the mess they leave behind. The smell can get very bad.

I worry about the volunteer church wardens leaving because of the bats.

Who would replace them?

I would be very upset if the church had to close because of the bats.

Bats are God's creatures too and they do need somewhere to live. I just wish it wasn't in this church!



The challenges in this section are designed to get you out exploring. Think about what you might need and how you will stay safe. For example, if you are going on a bat walk you will need to wear warm clothes and take a torch.

VISIT YOUR LOCAL CHURCH

Check the church is open before you visit. Find out as much as you can about it. When was it built? Does it house any special treasures? Does it have a churchyard?

Use our **Church Spotter's Guide** to see what you can find inside your church.

Write about your visit using the My Church Visit worksheet.

VISIT A NEW CHURCH

Go to a church you've never visited before and see how different it is to your local church! Use our **Church Spotter's Guide** to see what you can find inside your church. Write about your visit using the My Church Visit worksheet.

BECOME A CHURCH BAT SPOTTER

Use our Bat Spotter's Guide to look for signs of bats in a church. This can be your local church or another. It doesn't matter if you don't find any signs of bats!

GO ON A BAT WALK

Go on an organised bat walk and find out how to use a bat detector. One of the easiest ways of doing this is to look on the Bat Conservation Trust website at bats.org.uk for bat walks in your local area.

Go on your own bat spotting walk. Any green space, such as a churchyard, park or a garden, can have bats flying around between spring and autumn. Warm, dry evenings are the best for spotting bats.





My Name:	My Name:		
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My Church Visit

TICK THE BOX IF YOU SAW ANY OF THESE IN THE CHURCH.

Date of visit:	You can use the church spotter's guide to help			
Name of church visited	Altar		Brasses	
	Pews		Tomb/memorial	
How old is the church?	Font		Stained glass	
Did you sign the visitors' book? YES/NO/NO BOOK	Lectern		Stone carving	
	Pulpit		Wood carving	
TAKE A FEW MOMENTS TO SIT QUIETLY IN THE CHURCH. WRITE DOWN SOME WORDS TO DESCRIBE HOW IT MAKES YOU FEEL	WRITE DOWN SON		STING THINGS YOU HAVE F	OUND OUT

DRAW YOUR FAVOURITE PART OF THE CHURCH



My Name:



My Bat Walk

	HOW MANY BATS DID YOU	SEE ON YOUR WALK?
Date of walk	None □	More than 10 $\ \square$
Where did you walk?	One 🗆	More than 100 $\ \square$
Start time End time	1-10 🗆	Couldn't count □
Who did you go with?		
	Do you know what sp	ECIES OF BAT YOU SAW?
WRITE ABOUT OR DRAW THREE OTHER THINGS YOU SAW O	Yes Write the nar	me of the species if you know i
YOUR WALK	No 🗆	
	Mart was the Meather Ly	VED THE MEATHER MANY AFFECT
		E? THE WEATHER MAY AFFECT BATS YOU SEE
	Cold □	
	Cool 🗆	Cloudy
	Warm □	Mist/Fog □
	Hot □	Light Rain
	Dry □	Heavy Rain □
	•	

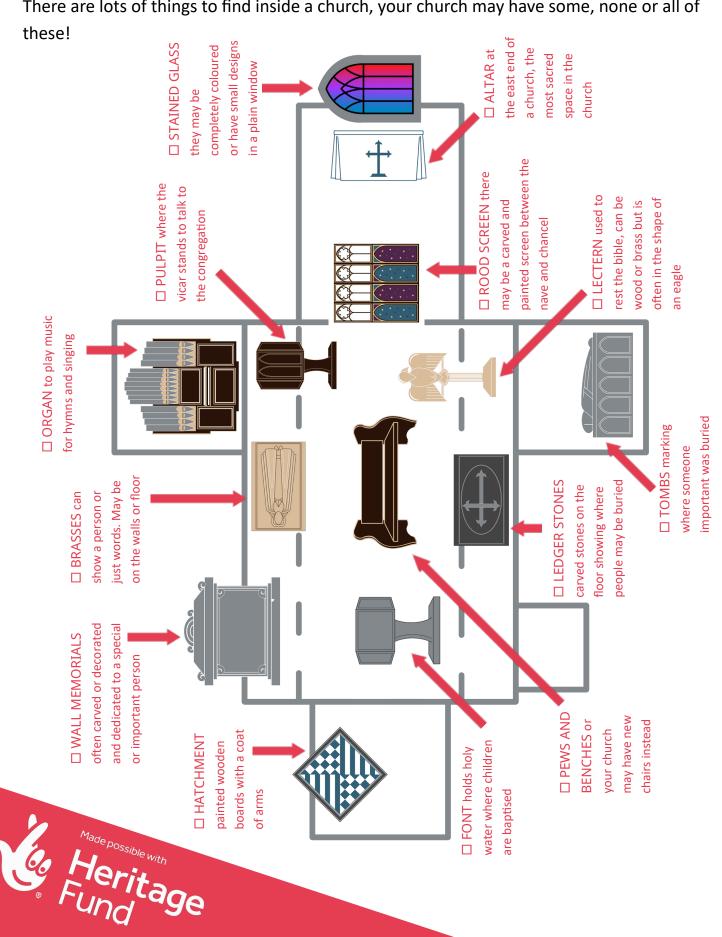
DRAW A MAP OF YOUR WALK, OR DRAW YOUR FAVOURITE PLACE ON YOUR WALK



My Name:

Church Spotter's Guide - Inside

There are lots of things to find inside a church, your church may have some, none or all of

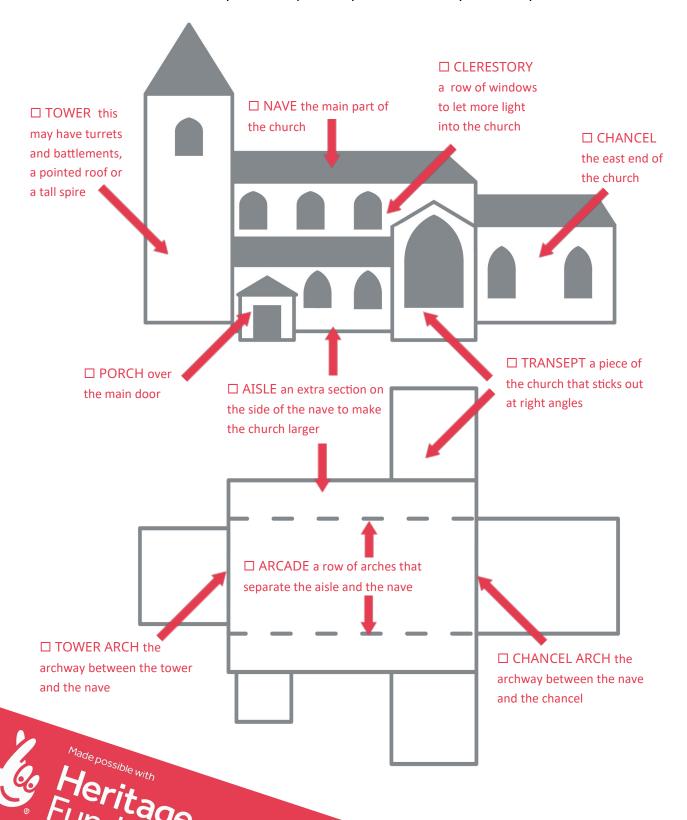


My Name:

Church Spotter's Guide The Church Building

Churches are all different shapes and sizes. Your church may look like this one, or may be very different.

How many different parts of your church can you identify?



My Name:

CHURCHES

Bat Spotter's Guide

There are four main signs that there are bats in your church—poo or droppings, wee or urine, feeding signs and actually seeing a bat!

WHERE TO LOOK

You can find signs of bats anywhere in a church. Bats often roost in places where the wooden roof meets the stone walls, like the chancel and tower arch. Looking under these is a good place to start.

Look for droppings in places that are out of the way or hard to clean, for example under pews, in corners or behind furniture. Make sure you do not move any items or furniture while you're looking.

Look for urine spots and splashes on flat, smooth surfaces especially stone and metal.

Remember to look up high! You will often see bat droppings on walls or caught in cobwebs.

Not everything you find will be caused by bats. Mouse droppings can look similar and water drops can look like urine as well.



☐ BAT DROPPINGS

Small, dry and dark. About 6-15mm across. You can identify droppings by squishing them in a tissue or using gloves. Bat droppings will crumble apart, mouse droppings will squash into a ball.

☐ BAT URINE

Look for splashes on clean, flat surfaces, or streaks on walls. Fresh urine may still be damp and slightly sticky. Urine will leave pale marks on stone or greenish spots on metal.





☐ FEEDING SIGNS

Some bats perch in the same spot to feed. They eat the soft parts of moths and other insects and then drop the wings. Piles of moth or insect wings are a good sign of bats.

☐ LIVE OR DEAD BAT

You may be lucky enough to actually spot a bat in your church.

You should never touch or disturb a bat, or shine a torch into a bat roost.

If the bat looks sick or injured, or is on the ground and in danger, you should call the National Bat Helpline on 0345 1300 228





GET INOLIED GET INOLIED GET INOLIED

There are lots of ways to get more involved in protecting your local bats and your local church. Here are some suggestions you could try...

YOUR LOCAL BAT GROUP

Many areas will have a local Bat Group.

You can find your nearest group at bats.org.uk/support-bats/bat-groups

YOUR LOCAL CHURCH

Ask your local church if they need any help.

You may be able to get involved with an event, organise a litter pick or tidy
the churchyard, or make a display or flower arrangement for the church.

Take part in the National Bat Monitoring Programme
Help record your local bats. The sunset survey is the easiest. Find out more at
bats.org.uk/our-work/national-bat-monitoring-programme/surveys

THE CHURCHES CONSERVATION TRUST

The Churches Conservation Trust looks after historic churches. Find out more about how to get involved in their work at **visitchurches.org.uk**

BAT CONSERVATION TRUST

The Bat Conservation Trust works to protect bats in the UK. Find out more about how to get involved in their work at **bats.org.uk**





PLAY & CREATE

In this section you'll find lots of fun things to make and games to play



INDOOR GAMES & ACTIVITIES

Make bat biscuits or bat poo crumbles

Make a bat mask

Design a stained glass window

Make a hunky punk

Make a poster about bats for your

local church



Play the bat and moth game

Meet a tree

Plant an acorn

Plant some insect-friendly plants

Make a bat box





Make a Hunky Punk



Hunky punks are funny or scary carved figures that are found on churches in the west of England, particularly Somerset. In other parts of the country hunky punks are called grotesques. You may see similar carvings called gargoyles that help drain water off the church roof, but hunky punks are just for decoration!









You can make your own hunky punk out of salt dough

INGREDIENTS

1 cup of plain flour Extra flour for dusting

½ cup of salt Blunt knife or spoon to help carve

½ cup cold water Your imagination!

INSTRUCTIONS

Mix the salt and flour together in a bowl

Add the water slowly and mix with your fingers until you make a dough. You may not need all the water

Dust a work surface with flour and knead your dough until it becomes smooth and not sticky

Shape and carve your dough into your very own hunky punk. It can be a realistic person or animal, or you can imagine your own creature

Bake your salt dough hunky punk in an oven at 120C until it is hard, or let it dry in a warm place

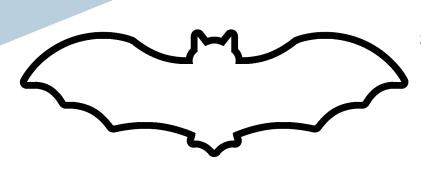
When cool you can paint your hunky punk any colour you like!











225g /8oz self-raising flour

3 tbsp cocoa powder (or brown/black food colouring)

100g/4oz butter or vegan spread

100g/4oz caster sugar

5tsp milk or vegan alternative

Sieve the flour and cocoa into a bowl

Rub the butter into the flour until it looks like breadcrumbs

Stir in the sugar

Add the milk and mix to a firm dough. You may need to add more milk or flour to get the right consistency

Roll the dough on a floured surface

Use a bat-shaped cutter or print out and cut around the template to make your bat biscuits

Place on a greased tray and bake at 180C for 8-10 minutes.

Cool and decorate your biscuits!

100g/4oz butter or vegan spread

100g/4oz chocolate

2tbsp golden syrup

Bat Poo Crumbles

Crushed biscuits, mixed nuts, peanuts, glace cherries, desiccated coconut, puffed rice cereal, mini marshmallows, or any other treats you like!

Melt the butter, syrup and chocolate over hot water, or very carefully in short bursts in the microwave

Stir your other ingredients together and pour over the melted chocolate mixture. Use just enough of the chocolate mixture to hold your ingredients together

Put rough spoonfuls of your mix onto greased baking paper on a plate or tray

Chill in the fridge until set



The Bat & Moth Game



Bats use echolocation to find their food in the dark. They make loud, high-pitched calls that echo back when they hit a moth or another insect. They also use echolocation to find their way around and avoid bumping into trees!

You can play with one bat and one moth, or as many bats and moths as you like!

WHAT YOU NEED

Blindfold(s). You can use a sleep mask or a scarf

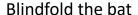
A safe area to run around in with nothing to trip over

HOW TO PLAY

Find a safe, open space, and get everyone to stand in a circle.

Choose one child to be the bat and one or more children to be moths

Have the bat and moths stand inside the circle. The children still in the circle are woodland trees



The bat shouts the word "bat" as many times as they like

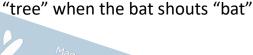
Every time the bat shouts "bat" the moths must shout "moth"

The bat has to listen for the sound of the moths and get close enough to tag them. The moths can move around inside the circle to avoid being caught

Once a moth is tagged they have been eaten and are out of the game

To make the game harder pick several moths and several bats

To make the game even harder everyone in the circle can shout













Meet a Tree



WHAT YOU NEED

Blindfold(s). You can use a scarf or sleep mask

A safe area with trees



If you can't get to a safe area with trees, or want to stay indoors, you could play this game with leaves, twigs or any other natural objects





HOW TO PLAY

Split into pairs. One child puts on the blindfold

The other child chooses a tree and leads their partner to it, making sure they don't bump into anything or trip over

The blindfolded child meets the tree and gives it a hug. Let them feel how rough the bark is, how big the tree is, is there moss or lichen growing on it, are there any leaves or branches, does the tree have a smell?

After a few minutes the other child leads their partner back to where they started from

The first child takes off their blindfold and tries to find the tree they met!

Swap over and play the game again so everyone can meet a tree

IF YOU CAN'T MEET A TREE YOU COULD COLLECT SEVERAL LEAVES, GIVE YOUR BLINDFOLDED PARTNER A LEAF TO MEET, AND THEN SEE IF THEY CAN RECOGNISE IT



What other natural items could you try this with..?

Plant a Tree



Trees are great for all sorts of wildlife. They provide homes for insects, birds, and roosts for bats. Even dead trees are full of cracks and crevices for roosting bats, and for insects.

PLANT YOUR OWN OAK TREE

Look for an oak tree—you can identify an oak by its leaves

In the autumn, collect acorns from the ground beneath the oak tree. Do not pick acorns from the tree itself

Find a small flower pot or make some drainage holes in the bottom of a plastic tub. An empty yogurt pot is perfect

Fill the pot with peat-free compost or soil

Push the acorns into the soil until they're about 2cm below the surface and make sure they're covered in compost

Leave your pots outside, even on a balcony or window sill. Keep the soil damp

Be patient! You may not see your acorn growing until the spring

You can also try this with conkers (Horse Chestnut) or other tree seeds





Bats in the UK don't feed on plants, however the moths and other insects that the bats eat definitely do need plants to survive!

You can help provide food for bats by growing some insect friendly plants in a pot, tub or in your garden

Try a mix of as many different colours and types of flowers as you can

Look for night-scented plants and flowers like Stocks, Petunias, Honeysuckle, Jasmine or Evening Primrose that will attract moths and other night-flying insects





Pale or white flowers can be better at attracting night-flying insects like moths

Look for simple flowers with one layer of petals. These are easier for insects to feed from

Look for native British wildflowers as well as ornamental garden plants

If you have a garden or lawn, leave an area of it to grow wild and see what grows! Even long grass can be great for attracting insects





Make A Bat Box

Different bat species will need different types and sizes of bat box.

You can find lots of different plans and designs for bat boxes online, some of which are easier to make than others! Try the Bat Conservation Trust or your local Wildlife Trust.

One of the easiest boxes to make is a Kent Bat Box, which is suitable for most common species such as pipistrelles

Whichever box you choose to build, it should be made of rough, textured wood that the bats can cling to and climb up.

It SHOULD NOT be treated with any chemicals, and be unpainted, especially inside or on the bat access ladder. If you want to paint or decorate your bat box, only paint the outside of the box and look for water based, pet friendly paints.

Place your box somewhere dry, sheltered and ideally with a nice open space in front of it so bats can safely fly in

DO NOT open your box once it is in place. You can find out if it is being used by watching at dusk, using a bat detector or checking the ground beneath the box for fresh droppings



Make a Bat or Church Poster

A poster or notice is a great way to tell people more about your local bats, or your local church. You could make a poster for your church, telling visitors about the bats or about the history of the church itself.

THINK ABOUT INCLUDING

What species of bat are in the church
How many bats are in the church
Your favourite facts about bats
Lots of photos or drawings of bats
Why bats might damage the church, or why parts of the church may be covered to protect them from bats

How old the church is

A plan or map of the church
Interesting things to see in the church
Your favourite facts about the church
Photos or drawings of the church
How the church looks after its bats
Any events happening at the church

HERE ARE SOME EXAMPLES. YOU CAN DESIGN YOUR OWN POSTER IN ANY WAY YOU LIKE









Stained Glass In Churches



STAINED GLASS WINDOWS are found in lots of churches.

They are made from pieces of coloured glass cut into shapes and fixed with lead, plain glass with the picture or design painted on, or a mixture of both.

Here are some examples of stained glass windows.







Some stained glass has pictures of animals and wildlife, including bats!



A BAT IN STAINED GLASS AT ST PETER'S CHURCH, NETHERSEAL, DERBYSHIRE. CAN YOU WORK OUT WHAT SPECIES OF BAT THIS IS?

THE MILLENNIUM WINDOW AT ST PETER, GUESTWICK,

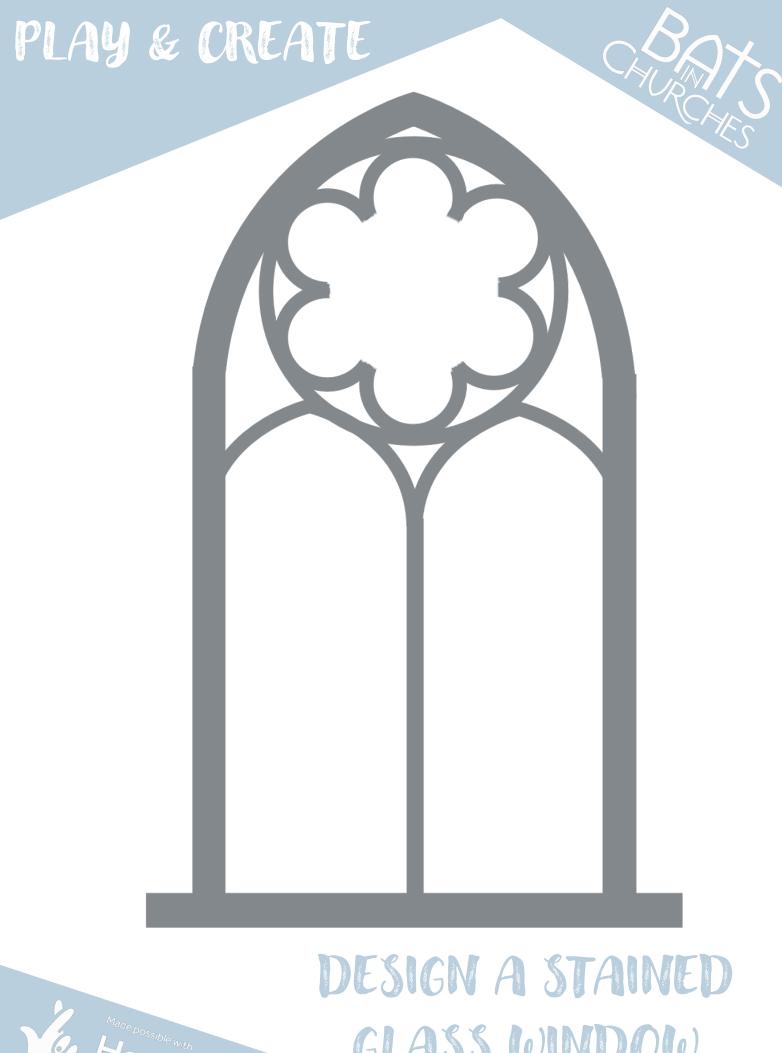
NORFOLK SHOWING LOCAL WILDLIFE.

HOW MANY DIFFERENT PLANTS

AND ANIMALS CAN

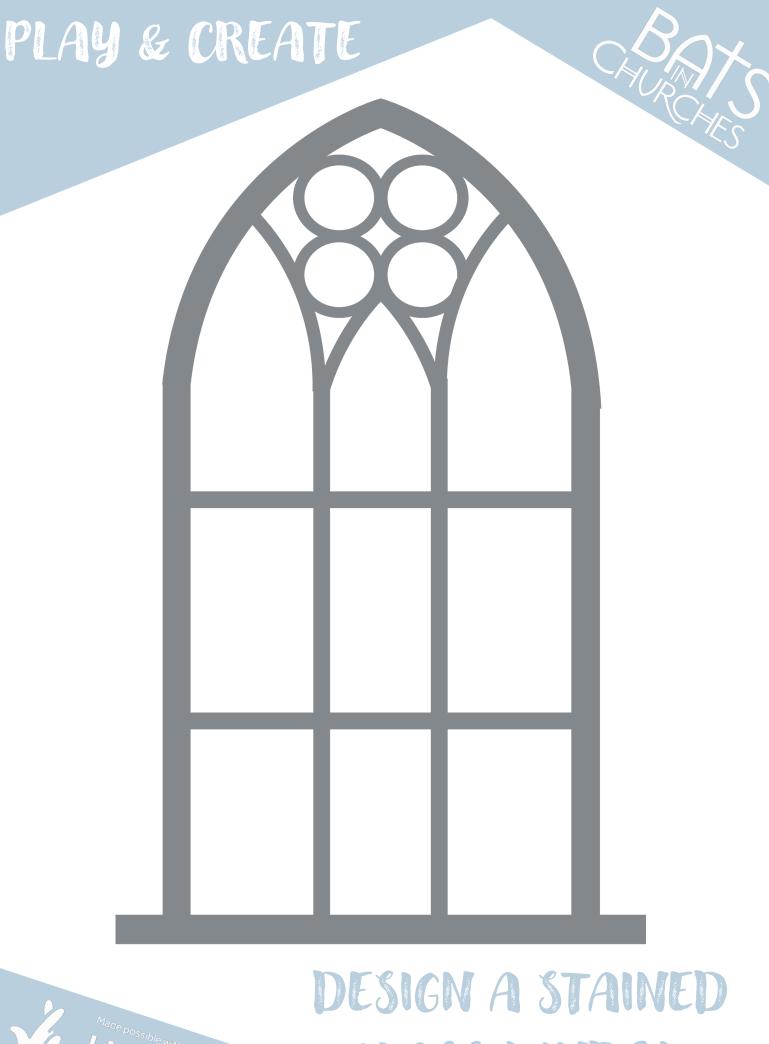
YOU SEE?







GLASS WINDOW





GLASS WINDOW





