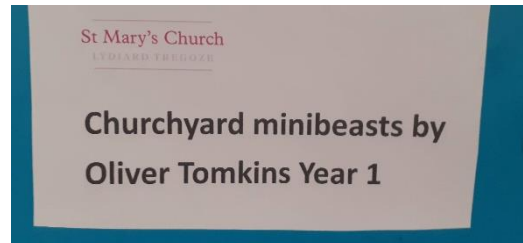


It's been a busy summer with the Polyptych Open weekend at the end of July, summer visitors aplenty and children adding to the 'Churchyard Minibeast' project during August visits. This was started by children from Oliver



Tomkins School and added to by our summer visitors.



Then came our volunteer gardening day in early September when local volunteers joined a small team from Nationwide to clear paths leading up to the church and a bramble patch at the rear. Debris from this was used to construct a dry habitat for a range of animals and insects under the expert guidance of Sue Spielberg, ecology and garden advisor.



See our 'before and after' from the path (*above*) and Robert (*right*) hard at work at the rear of the church. Clearing this area has allowed clear views of the church from the parkland beyond. Something we have been aiming for in recent months.

The Heritage weekends in September drew in over 270 visitors to enjoy and learn more about this lovely church. Thank you to all those who gave their time to help with this and to those who included St Mary's in their 'Ride and Stride' route.

New volunteer Mark is about to be joined by two further helpers, Katie and Sarah. They will join the team in the coming weeks. Unfortunately, we have had to say goodbye to Francis and Trevor has stepped back for a couple of months following surgery.

However, we have school visits booked in for October and Remembrance Day coming in November when the church will support the Garden of Remembrance in the walled garden. We hope to be able to open the church a little more regularly during this period before our winter 'slow down' when Friday opening stops until Easter.



After this the busy Christmas season will be upon us again with additional services and Carol Singing events.

A huge thank you to our summer and 'year-round' volunteers and also to those who support us for specific events such as conservation cleaning and churchyard clearance. We really couldn't do it without you.

Ann – Education and Volunteer coordinator