

St John's Outdoor Area and Garden Consultation

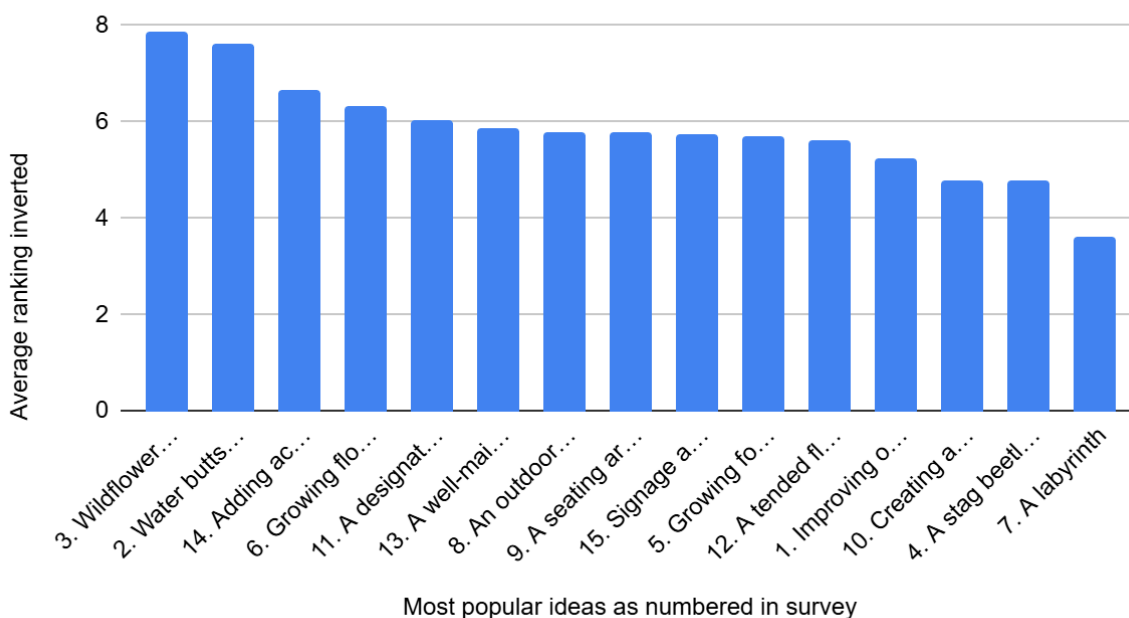
25th January to 22nd February 2026

There were 35 responses.

Suggested ideas in order of average popularity:

1. Wildflower areas to support pollinators
2. Water butts for improving water conservation
3. Adding accessible parking spaces nearer to the entrance ramp to church
4. Growing flowers and foliage to decorate the church
5. A designated wild area with longer grass to encourage crickets and grasshoppers
6. A well-maintained grassy area at the front of church/near the war memorial
7. An outdoor prayer station
8. A seating area or bench by the hall entrance
9. Signage and interpretation boards to explain what we are doing
10. Growing foods such as herbs/fruit and vegetables to use in church catering
11. A tended flowerbed at the church entrance
12. Improving our compost area with 3 heaps for rotation
13. Creating a pond or rain gardens/swales/muddy areas to support nest building
14. A stag beetle sanctuary
15. A labyrinth

Most popular ideas



Other ideas

Do you have any other ideas to support our aims? We would love to hear them. Please add them below or email us directly on the Creation Care gardening email address: gardens@stjohnshw.org.uk

Seating area by kitchen entrance

(Signage + interpretation) - Some at PCC need correction

You may already have these - bird nesting boxes?

A sensory garden that is wheelchair height so in planters, perhaps at the front of church near the road by the wooden cross

3+11 are laudable, but probably need a large area than we have, to be effective.

5+6 nice idea, but not practical for the quantities we need: Or could use raised beds by patio.

9 The bench in the back garden near kitchen door was excellent - reinstate that?

10 maybe use that ^ area for a pond - but do need running water or will get clogged with algae, +and dry up in dry weather!

7+8 both need to be private, so if a pond doesn't so, could use that bed for a prayer station.

It's all very lovely, but who will maintain it?! Not me i'm afraid! I damaged my knee weeding the mound last time! >:(

Children's activities to encourage a love and respect for nature

8+10 by pond (circular one)

A bench within a prayer garden area outside surrounded by wild flowers and maybe the sound of running water by using a solar panelled water feature would encourage people to take time out to sit in a quiet space and reflect, pray and find peace whilst enjoying the smell of wild flowers, scents and nature.

A pleasant seating area outside the cafe with a mixture of flowers and perfumed herbs and shrubs (small)

Remember that you can't just expect a wildflower area to look after itself - even that needs certain attention and cultivation, cutting back and raking. Growing fruit/vegetables/greenery/flowers for church use involves continual work and attention - it's time consuming, you need total dedication!

Great that you're looking into all of this - thank you!

I'd like to add thoughts to most of the questions...

1. We have a two heap compost and it works brilliantly, three is ideal but two is fine.
3. It doesn't have to be wild flowers - they can be so hard to grow - but indigenous flowers will produce easily obtainable nectar for pollinators.
4. The common has natural stag beetle areas, so, as we're surrounded by them, not a priority.

5. This isn't essential but a great example of how to reduce our carbon footprint - and so delicious!
6. If repeat bloomers are planted this will help them thrive.
7. Sorry, just not my thing - they are rarely large enough to be useable...
9. Perhaps a few benches so that youth groups could have their sessions out there?
10. A pond or water feature is the BEST way to increase bio diversity. Love meditative water features.
13. The grassy area at the front of the church is so useful for children and youth games and social events.
14. Could also do with a disabled space at hall 3.

None but love what you're doing to make St John's more eco friendly and welcoming to all!

Landscaping for additional carparking and creation of more raised beds for flowers and veg growing without so much bending down

This initiative requires a dedication team for years and not a one off. The vegetable garden idea was tried a few years ago but only lasted one or two years. My thought is that the bank near the church centre hall 3 should have tall and large grasses - flowers have such a short span of flowering.

See the Monty Don recent TV series Monty Don's Rhineland Gardens Part 3 (Holland) for ideas on grasses.

Another idea is to pay for a consultation with a garden designer who can suggest a planting schedule.

8 exists, us the southwest corner

12 exists but needs improvement

Offers of help provided - 19 people offered to help - THANK YOU!