

Dear Church Representative,

The Church of England is one of the partners in the Bats in Churches project, funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund, working alongside Natural England, Historic England, Churches Conservation Trust and Bat Conservation Trust. As part of this work the Bats in Churches project has designed a Church Bat Detective survey that is taking place over four years (2019-2022). Our aim is to better understand how bats use churches in England, the impact they may have (both positive and negative), and the attitude of congregations to bats. The results will help people who are using church buildings.

We ask that you allow our volunteer to carry out a one-off survey this summer (before the end of August). We appreciate that you may have concerns over safety at this time and I hope that our set of [guidelines](#) to minimise any risk posed by COVID-19 will help. We do, of course, appreciate that you may still feel uncomfortable with a survey this year. If this is the case I hope you'll consider allowing us to survey in the summer of 2021.

The study involves a volunteer firstly talking with a representative over the phone, going through a questionnaire about your church, and asking for your thoughts and experiences regarding bats in churches. This can be sent through to you beforehand. The volunteer will then ask to visit, at a time suitable for you, to look for signs of bats within the church.

We are interested in your church whether you think there are bats present or not; finding no evidence is just as important as finding evidence of bats. If we do find bats that you are currently not aware of this does not necessarily mean any changes are needed to the way you use the building at present, but it does mean the project can provide you with support and advice if necessary.

You can find out more about the Bats in Churches project on our website (www.batsinchurches.org). If you have any questions please do get in touch with me.



Best wishes,
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