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Best Kept Churchyard Competition 2020

Sponsored by Lodge & Sons (Builders) of Stebbing

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| Entries are invited for the 2020 Best Kept Churchyard Competition. |
| *RCCE’s Best Kept Churchyard Competition is kindly sponsored by Lodge & Sons (Builders) of Stebbing and aims to provide recognition of the work you and your volunteers do, as well as offering cash prizes towards projects in your churchyard.* |
| This competition looks to recognise and reward churchyards in Essex which are well-managed, providing a peaceful haven for both humans and animals. We encourage entries from churchyards of all denominations. |
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| * **Does your churchyard strike a balance between being an area of peace and contemplation whilst allowing nature to flourish?** |
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| * **Do you actively encourage wildlife into your churchyard?** |
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| * **Do you have a team of volunteers who work tirelessly to maintain an attractive and welcoming churchyard?** |
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| Entries may be submitted by any organisation which is responsible for managing a churchyard. If you are proud of your churchyard and those who work in it then please consider entering this competition. **Cash prizes will be awarded to the winners.** |
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| Entries must be received by **Friday 24th April 2020**. Judging will take place in two stages between May and June. Winners will be announced at the Rural Community Council of Essex (RCCE) AGM in July, where certificates and prizes will be awarded. |
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Entries may be received for any churchyard, whether or not your village has been entered in the RCCE Village of the Year competition. Results will be posted on both the RCCE and Diocese of Chelmsford websites and magazines: [www.chelmsford.anglican.org](http://www.chelmsford.anglican.org); [www.essexrcc.org.uk](http://www.essexrcc.org.uk)

A guide to ‘Management Plans’ is available to download from the RCCE website: [www.essexrcc.org.uk](http://www.essexrcc.org.uk) or by telephoning Sara Ward on 01376 574330

***If you are not responsible for the churchyard in your village, please pass this information and entry form on to the relevant organisation.***

**Entry Form Information to Entrants**

**Please complete and return the entry form by Friday 24th April 2020 to:**

**Sara Ward, RCCE, Threshelfords Business Park, Inworth Road, Feering, Essex CO5 9SE.**

Or Forms can be downloaded from the RCCE website: [www.essexrcc.org.uk](http://www.essexrcc.org.uk) and sent to [sara.ward@essexrcc.org.uk](mailto:sara.ward@essexrcc.org.uk)

*\* Please note that we are unfortunately unable to return copies of management plans which are submitted with applications.*

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**ENTRY FORM**

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| Name of church |  |
| Name of organisation managing the churchyard |  |
| Address of church including postcode |  |
| Name, address and telephone no. for correspondence | Postcode: Tel: |
| E-mail address |  |
| Is the Churchyard open, closed or both? | Open/Closed/Both |
| Do you have a management map or plan?  Is wildlife considered?  *Please see guidance on management plans on RCCE website and enclosed.* | YES / NO |
| If yes: | 🞏 Copy enclosed \*  🞏 Available / on display in church or churchyard (please state location to assist judges) |
| Do you have volunteers to manage and maintain the churchyard?  Do you employ a contractor for any work?  Mixture of Both volunteers and paid contractors (Please continue on a separate sheet if necessary). | If YES, please give numbers of volunteers and their duties:  If yes, please give an indication of the work they undertake:  If both, please give an indication of how this is split (state number of volunteers above) |
| Do you try to attract any particular plant species, insects or animals into the churchyard? Please give details of the species you are encouraging and the measures you have introduced eg: *bird boxes, bat boxes, wood piles etc.* |  |
| Have you made any particular landscape improvements to your churchyard in the last 2 years? *eg water butt, seats, garden of remembrance, pathways*, *bedding areas* |  |
| Informing visitors of your work through interpretation boards/leaflets is an important element of churchyard management – please include details of how you explain your work to visitors. |  |
| Please state if there are any future plans for the churchyard eg updated management plan, enhanced wildlife areas/measures, water butt, seats, bedding areas |  |