



# Church Gardens

Exclusive Group Visits

---

2024



# Group Visits to Church Gardens

Groups of visitors associated with U3As, Horticultural Societies, WIs and many other special interest groups are warmly invited to privately visit the gardens by arrangement between the months of April to October.

During your visit to the garden, you will have exclusive access to the grounds and your group can enjoy pre-ordered refreshments in the Arcadia Tea Room.

Many groups return to Church Gardens year after year to follow the progress of this remarkable restoration project and to see the garden at different times of year, receiving a different tour or talk each time they come.





# Contents

Garden Tours

Social Events Private Hire

Talks at Church Gardens

ARCADIA Dining Options

How to Find Us

FAQs



# Garden Tours

With Kay McHugh



Our Garden Tours offer visitors a truly enjoyable day out to Church Gardens. The Tour will be led by the owner and gardener, Kay McHugh, who will share her personal insight into this ongoing restoration project.

If your group are visiting for the first time, we recommend booking the Introductory Guided Tour where you will explore all of the main garden features. For returning groups of visitors, we're introducing a series of subject specific Garden Tours where Kay will focus on a particular subject of interest.

All group visits will begin with a short talk in the Arcadia Tea Room followed by a walk in the gardens lasting approximately 45 minutes.

**Price: £10pp (groups of 15-35 guests)**

# Garden Tours



## 1. Introductory Guided Tour to Church Gardens

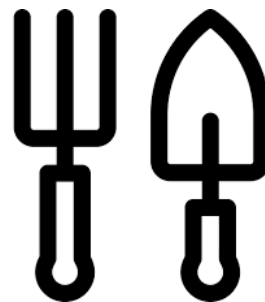
With almost 3 acres of gardens to explore, booking a guided tour ensures you don't miss a thing! Visitors will find out about the history, restoration and upkeep of this inspiring project. The tour includes all garden features and is recommend for all groups visiting the garden for the first time.



Best time to book: April-October

## 2. Organic Fruit and Vegetable Growing

Kay shares her secrets for producing a successful harvest. With over 30 years experience of growing fruit and vegetables, Kay will explain her approach to gardening which is centered around key organic principles such as; companion planting, soil enrichment & improving biodiversity.



Best time to book: August-October

## 3. Creating a Food Forest in Your Garden

Kay will explain the principles behind forest gardening and talk about the unusual edible and medicinal plants that feature in the Forest Garden at Church Gardens. Kay will discuss why this type of sustainable gardening is so relevant to gardeners today.



Best time to book: June-October

# Garden Tours



## 4. Permaculture and Sustainability in the Garden

Kay explains how Church Gardens has been designed using permaculture principles to be high yielding, regenerative and sustainable. Kay will discuss examples of creative recycling within the garden and explain how we use natural resources within our composting, leaf mould and rain water harvesting systems.



Best time to book: April-October

## 5. A Historically Sensitive Garden Restoration

Kay will discuss the research into the historical background of Church Gardens and how she and Patrick then devised an appropriate design for the kitchen gardens that is sympathetic to its origins but suitable for the needs and available labour of the present day.



Best time to book: April-October

## 6. Explore Church Gardens

Kay will give the group an update on new features in the garden and all visitors will be given a map of the grounds. The group have private access to the gardens and can explore the grounds at their own pace. Kay will be available to answer visitor's questions.



Best time to book: April-October

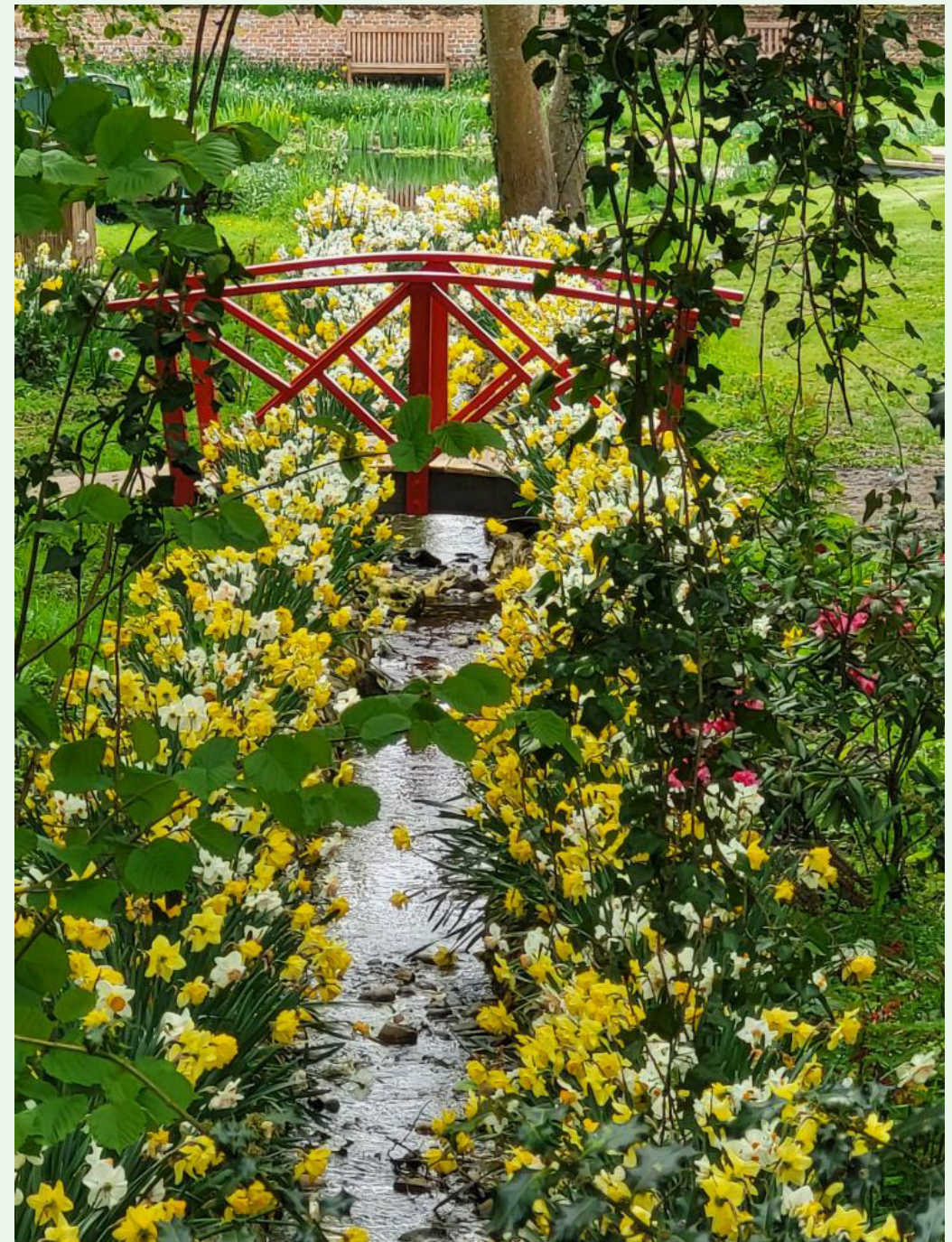


I just wanted to thank you & your Mum for welcoming my group of ladies to your lovely garden last Wednesday. They all thought it was a hidden gem. Thank you also for the delicious Victoria sponge.

Vivien, U3A Group

What a wonderful time I had today at Church Gardens. Thank you so very much for the fascinating tour and delightful lunch, you are an inspiration to us all.

Catherine, Horticultural Society





# Social Events

Private Hire of ARCADIA Tea Room



ARCADIA can be privately hired by groups for a variety of Social Events throughout the year.

- Seating for up to 50 people
- Fully Licensed bar serving tea, coffee, soft and alcoholic drinks
- Disabled toilet facilities

To discuss hiring ARCADIA for your groups social event, please contact a member of our team.





# Talks at Church Gardens

With Kay McHugh



Kay has written three Talks, each providing an in-depth insight into different stages of the Church Gardens restoration project. The talks, lasting between 45mins-1hr, are generously illustrated with beautiful photographs and can include a question and answer session at the end.

Talks are given at Church Gardens in the ARCADIA Tea Room and after the talk, visitors have the chance to explore the gardens.

**Price: £10pp (groups of 15-45 guests)**

# Talks at Church Gardens



## 1. Church Gardens: A Family's Restoration Journey

Kay will give an illustrated talk about her family's 25 year journey to restore and rebuild their 17th Century house and 3-acre walled garden. The talk will include a brief reference to the historical research about the property, the hard initial stages of rebuilding a home for a young family, creating a productive garden to feed that family, and finally, attempting to restore the garden to its former glory for the public to enjoy.

## 2. Church Gardens: Going Public

Join us for the second instalment of our family's restoration journey. During this illustrated talk, Kay looks back at our first year of opening the gardens to the public, before Covid-19 spread across the globe. Church Gardens then became a safe haven where the family isolated together for over a year. This time not only proved to be extremely productive, but life changing. Find out what exciting projects the family have planned for the future...

## 3. A Year at Church Gardens

Although the gardens are only open to the public for half the year, looking after Church Gardens is a fulltime job. This talk gives a personal insight into what is involved for the McHugh family who maintain the gardens through the seasons whilst also continuing to put into action their plan to complete the restoration, create new garden features and open the garden more regularly to the public.

“Thank you for the very interesting talk given by Kay. It was illuminating and most enjoyable.”



During your visit to Church Gardens, your group have exclusive access to the ARCADIA Tea Room where they can enjoy delicious homemade refreshments.

We use organically grown ingredients from the Kitchen Garden to produce fresh and seasonal food for visitors to Church Gardens throughout the year.

Refreshments must be pre-ordered in advance of your group visit, please discuss dietary requirements with our team when you make your booking.

# Group Visit Dining Options

---



## Homemade Sponge Cake of the Day

Coffee & Walnut, Victoria Sponge or Lemon & Orange served with tea or coffee

**£5pp**

## Cream Tea

Freshly baked plain or fruit scone served with Rodda's Cornish clotted cream and strawberry jam served with either tea or coffee

**£6pp**

## Traditional Afternoon Tea Menu

Selection of teas and coffees

Selection of sandwiches to include:

- Smoked salmon, cucumber and cream cheese, with fresh dill, chives and a dash of lemon juice
- Prawn mayonnaise, made with homemade Marie Rose sauce and freshly chopped chives
- Ploughman's small chunk pickle and mature cheddar, topped with British crumbed ham and fresh lettuce leaves
- Egg mayonnaise, made with rich and glossy yolk mayonnaise and freshly chopped chives

Freshly baked plain and fruit scone served with Rodda's Cornish clotted cream and strawberry jam

Selection of miniature cakes

Our Homemade Afternoon Teas are presented on three tiered stands and can be booked for groups up to 40 people.

**£20pp**

Add a glass of Prosecco added to your Traditional Afternoon Tea

**+£5pp**

# Group Visit Dining Options

---



## Light Lunch Menu

Groups can pre-order from one of the options below. All meals are served with tap water.

- Seasonal Soup of the day served with a warm bread roll **£7pp**
  - Sandwich Selection served with crisps and salad **£7pp**
- Smoked Bacon, Cheddar & Vegetable Quiche made with cheese shortcrust pastry and served with side salad and potato salad **£8pp**

## Antipasti Platter and Wine

Platter of fine Italian sliced meats including salamis, parma ham and olives

Selection of cheeses, chutneys, grapes, celery, dried fruits & nuts

Served with cheese biscuits, bread sticks, French bread & butter, along with extra virgin olive oil and balsamic vinegar

Glass of house red or white wine

**£11pp**

## Lunch Buffet Menu Option 1

Selection of sandwiches to include:

- Smoked salmon, cucumber and cream cheese, with fresh dill, chives and a dash of lemon juice
- Prawn mayonnaise, made with homemade Marie Rose sauce and freshly chopped chives
- Ploughman's small chunk pickle and mature cheddar, topped with British crumbed ham and fresh lettuce leaves
- Egg mayonnaise, made with rich and glossy yolk mayonnaise and freshly chopped chives

Homemade sausage rolls made with Cumberland pork encased in chutney

Homemade hummus with selection of crudités

Selection of crisps

Selection of homemade cakes

Freshly baked plain & fruit scones with clotted cream and strawberry jam

**£12pp**

# Group Visit Dining Options



## Lunch Buffet Menu Option 2

Selection of sandwiches to include:

- Smoked salmon, cucumber and cream cheese, with fresh dill, chives and a dash of lemon juice
- Prawn mayonnaise, made with homemade Marie Rose sauce and freshly chopped chives
- Ploughman's small chunk pickle and mature cheddar, topped with British crumbed ham and fresh lettuce leaves
- Egg mayonnaise, made with rich and glossy yolk mayonnaise and freshly chopped chives

Homemade quiches made with shortcrust cheese pastry

- Smoked bacon, courgette, pea, pepper and mushroom
- Spinach, sundried tomatoes, cheddar and spring onion (vegetarian)

Homemade sausage rolls made with Cumberland pork encased in chutney

Selection of crisps

Mixed green leaf salad with cucumber, pepper, radishes, celery, soya beans and spring onion

Homemade potato salad OR warm dressed new potatoes

Pasta salad with pesto, feta cheese, sundried tomatoes, olives and home-grown basil

Selection of homemade cakes

Freshly baked plain & fruit scones with clotted cream and strawberry jam

£18pp

# How to find us?



## Car

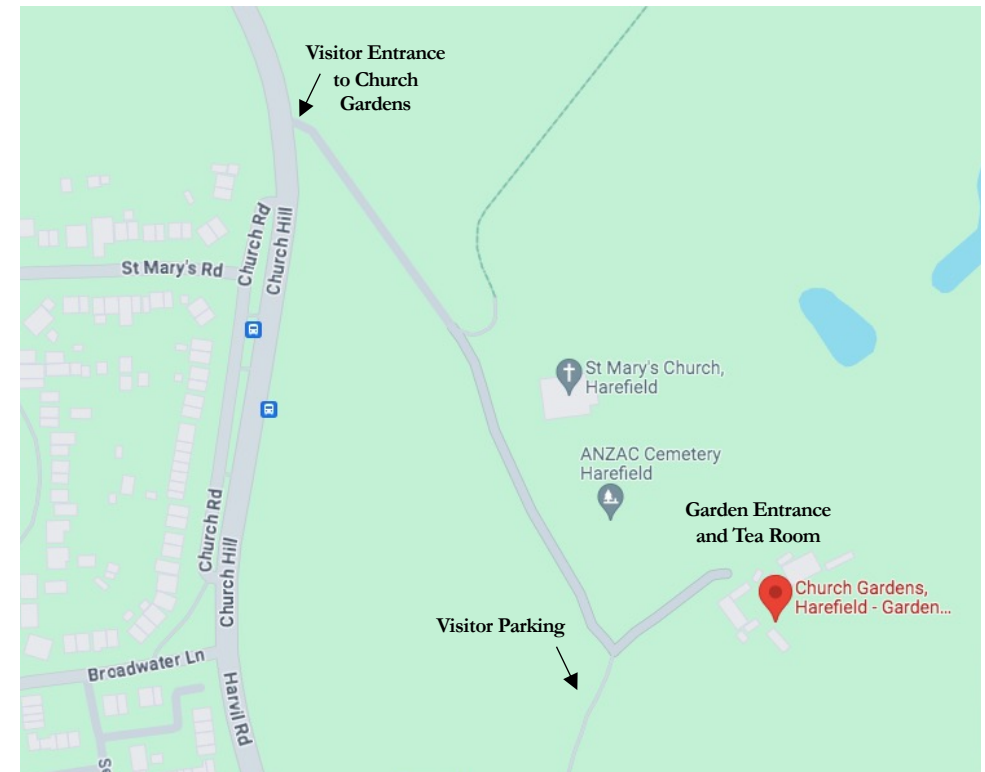
If travelling to Church Gardens by car, please be aware that Sat-Navs will guide you close to Church Gardens but they are not always entirely accurate. The postcode UB96DU should guide you to Church Hill Road. The turning to Church Gardens is marked by a sign for Church Gardens and this entrance road is also shared with St Mary's Parish Church. Turn right at the bottom of the hill, following the walled lane past the St Mary's Parish Church Graveyard.

## Parking

Parking is available for visitors at the bottom of the driveway on the grass verge. Three parking spaces closer to the garden entrance can be arranged for easy access if organised in advance, please notify us if this is required when making your booking.

## Public Transport

Bus – The 331 & U9 buses stop at St Mary's Road. It is a 7 minute walk to Church Gardens.





# FAQ's

## **Are there toilet facilities at Church Gardens?**

Yes, there is a fully accessible disabled toilet in the Arcadia Tea Room.

## **Are the Gardens accessible for wheelchairs?**

There are a variety of surfaces within the grounds, including uneven ground, gravel, grass and paved pathways. If you have any concerns, please talk to a member of our team ahead of your visit.

## **Are dogs allowed?**

During group visits, only assistance dogs are allowed into the gardens.

## **Do you cater for specific dietary needs?**

Yes, we can cater for specific dietary requirements if it is arranged in advance of your visit.

## **When is the best time of year to visit the Gardens?**

The gardens change throughout the seasons, so there is always something interesting to see.

## **How do I book a visit to Church Gardens for my Group?**

To book your group visit, please get in touch with a member of our team via email or phone.