

Kettlewell Churchyard declared “Best in North Yorkshire”



A CHURCHYARD in our Parish has been declared the best in North Yorkshire.

The space around St Mary’s Church in Kettlewell is the “overall and unanimous winner” of the first-ever Best Churchyard competition held in the county by CPRE The Countryside Charity.

The Bishop of Ripon, the Right Rev Dr Helen-Ann Hartley, congratulated everyone whose hard work contributed to the success.

The charity said: “Kettlewell is a very busy, post-pandemic tourist hot spot, but walk down the little lane through the lych gate and you are in an area of peace, tranquillity and contemplation – the journey is immersive.

“There is a rich and developed flora with a good insect population and busy bees. Whilst many piles of wood are havens for insects there is much high-value standing dead wood in the churchyard.



An insect home made by Kettlewell Primary School pupils

“There is a meandering route through the churchyard that takes in the flora that ends up at a well-designed labyrinth. In 45 minutes within the churchyard there were 21 bird species and four species of butterflies.”