

St Cuthbert's Roman Catholic Parish– Micro Grant for £1,713 in Bolton's Fund Round 24: Clean and Green Bolton.

In June 2022, St Cuthbert's Roman Catholic parish was awarded a micro grant of £1,713 to fund a project led by volunteers and the local primary school to create an accessible wildlife garden in an unused area next St. Joseph's Church on Horace Street in Bolton.

The priorities of this funding round were to support projects that either improved awareness around climate change issues or encouraged more people to reduce or re-use resources, to make improvements to local habitats to prevent biodiversity loss or projects that helped people connect with the environment.

St Cuthbert's Roman Catholic Parish used their micro grant to purchase plants and seeds, some essential gardening tools and materials and to cover the costs of installing a pond on the site. This area of Bolton has small pockets of green space but nowhere with seating for the local residents to sit quietly and re-charge.

Volunteers from the church worked in collaboration with pupils from St. Joseph's RC Junior School in Halliwell to turn the unused area into a haven for bees, butterflies, bugs and birds. The plants used included herbs, edible plants and wildflowers.

For over a year, the parishioners and volunteers worked hard to create a quiet and beautiful space – open to all. The once overgrown space has been transformed into a colourful corner with raised beds, new hedge borders and a small pond. Through the development of the project, more volunteers from the local community have become involved in the on-going maintenance of the garden and it has been well used by residents.

The volunteer-led project team plans to keep developing the space by increasing the variety of herbs grown, installing bug houses and bird boxes and a hive for bees. They intend to continue their fundraising efforts so they can keep developing the site for the benefit of local residents and local schools.



A member of the project team said:

"It is intended that the garden will be used by our parish schoolchildren to help them learn about the care of creation and the importance of the effect of climate change in our world...studies show that even a small amount of time in the calm and quiet of nature can have a profound impact on our health and wellbeing."