

Churchyard Management Plan

Routine

Nettles

Keep the south area between benches and church door nettle free. Loosening any appearing with a fork before pulling to ensure whole roots are taken out. Keep all paths free of nettles.

Brambles

Dig up brambles which appear inside the hedge line. Trim back or weave into the hedge any long tentacles as they appear and before they have a chance to root.

Grass cutting

Continue our system of Spring and Autumn cutting, in most areas ensuring that grass is removed soon after strimming. However, keep the south area short by regular cutting. This will encourage a different type of wildflower which will increase our diversity. Also keep paths cut to allow access to tended graves.

Pond

Keep pond clear of leaves and debris removing things as they fall in. In the Autumn assess level of cleaning necessary with the view to empty pond, retaining any creatures in a bucket.

Pathways

Keep used paths regularly strimmed to allowed access to graves. For safety reasons level paths which are uneven.

Hedges

Continue to use local villagers who are willing to keep hedges trimmed in the Autumn.

Bug hotel

Finish filling this and put chicken wire over the front of it to retain the contents.

Communication

Continue our system of approaching villagers to carry out tasks within their known skill set. Engage with other residents at every opportunity especially during fund raising events e.g. Snowdrop weekends to encourage helping hands. Investigate buying signage.

Planning

Use the time after prayers on a Tuesday morning and after Sunday services to continue to discuss certain aspects of furthering the church yard habitat and diversity.

Ask around for surplus plants to see if they would be suitable for an area in the churchyard. Continue to plant native wildflowers.

Looking ahead

Hedges

Obtain a few more native shrubs to thicken the hedge in the “new” churchyard
Ensure suitable hedgerow habitat for hedgehogs.

Bats

Get a bat survey and install bat boxes.

Birds

Obtain a few bird boxes and install.

Biblical herbs/sensory garden

Make a herb garden in the south area beside the church wall just on from the plant stall.

Community Engagement

Run an event for "Love your Burial ground week" and "Count on Nature Week".
Install interpretation boards showcasing the wildlife people may encounter.