

ST MARY'S HAUGHLEY LAND MANAGEMENT PLAN (LMP) AND PLAN FOR NATURE

Updated annually: May 2024

1. Purpose and objectives (what are you aiming to achieve with your land)

The 'Core Principles' guiding churchyard development

The following are St Mary's Haughley core principles guiding churchyard development:

A Spiritual Place:

- Preservation as a place of remembrance
- Preservation as a place of worship and prayer
- Keeping the churchyard open for future burials of anyone living within the parish

A Community Space for Reflection

- A space open to the public for quiet reflection
- Providing accessibility for all, including maintenance of public rights of way crossing the churchyard

A Space for Nature

- Preservation of an environmentally friendly and ecologically managed space
- Using Eco Church principles, encouraging flora and fauna appropriately
- Mindful of tree preservation orders and management

An Historic Space

- Preservation of the integrity of an historic site within the curtilage of Haughley's medieval motte and bailey castle:
 - surrounding a grade I listed building
 - next to a designated ancient monument
 - in a conservation area
 - within an historic village.
- Mindful of Grade I (the church) and Grade II (the War Memorial) buildings in our planning and management

A Safe Space

- Inclusive to all, calm, quiet and welcoming
- Providing a safe environment for all those using the churchyard, including safe access to graves and memorials

Underpinning these aims are the Eco Church principles and values:

Christian Stewardship

Our biblical faith in the living God, who made the world, loves it and entrusts it to the care of human society.

Conservation of the Natural World

Conserving and restoring the natural world and aiming to run environmental education programmes for people of all ages.

Community Values

Through our commitment to God, each other and the wider creation, we aim to develop good relationships in our church, local and regional communities.

Cross-cultural Engagement

Where we can, drawing on the insights and skills of people from diverse cultures, both locally and around the world.

Cooperation and Partnerships

Working in partnership with a variety of organisations and individuals who share our concerns for a sustainable world.

Our aim is therefore to maintain and develop a spiritual place, a place of reflection and worship open to all of the Haughley community, and an historic and safe space, but above all a place for nature to flourish in a balanced and harmonious way, protecting and conserving wildflowers, insects and animals appropriately. These aims are of course inter-related – a spiritual place for reflection is enhanced by the beauty of nature and the immersive experience of being in a quiet and peaceful context. It is intended as a space in which to celebrate God's creation and to conserve it.

To do this we seek to maintain, develop and ensure the churchyard land, burial plots, and headstones, while encouraging wildlife-friendly management of our churchyard and burial ground that respects and cares for the natural flora and fauna without compromising Public Liability Risk management requirements (the churchyard is crossed by a footpath which is also a public right of way).

We therefore plan annual grass cutting, tree maintenance and hedge maintenance, planning in biodiversity elements and land management, with appropriate risk assessments (for example for the 'big cut' when we cut grasses at the base after flowering). This management includes promoting wildlife sustainability to suit each season. We aim to maintain natural biodiversity grasslands and wildflower meadow in significant areas of the churchyard.

Specifically, we aim to create and enhance the environment as shown by the annotations to our churchyard development plan under section 3 below. This includes several distinctive environments:

Wildflower and grassland across much of the churchyard and especially in the far section from the church: wildflower meadows are one of the rarest habitats that support hundreds of species of invertebrates, pollinators (bees and butterflies) and are a haven for small wildlife, enhancing bio-

diversity. To maintain this hay cuts at the base of flowers and grasses are made after flowering, twice a year usually, the main cut in July – the ‘Big Cut’ as we have called it (allowing seeds to fall) and final cut and tidying up in September when cuttings are removed and composted.

Water and wildlife: ‘wet’ environment alongside the moat which borders the whole of the western edge of the churchyard: this is a special freshwater environment and may encourage voles, toads, frogs, newts and dragonfly, as well as grasses more adapted to wetland along its banks. We are fortunate that this extends along the whole of one side of the churchyard, and is bounded by the path, without any grave plots to interrupt it, along the whole of the far section.

Trees and hedges: we have a range of diverse species which are managed through periodic coppicing and pruning. These include a silver birch at the cremation bed area and a number of flowering species along the main path which are spectacular in spring.

Lichens: on the church walls themselves are different species of lichen; our aim is to research these more fully and engage expert help and advice as to how best to manage the immediate environment.

Commonwealth Graves: on the road side (east) of the far section of the churchyard from the church is a small number of Commonwealth graves which require access and cut areas round them at all times.

The War Memorial: the War Memorial was erected by public subscription in 1920 at the front (south side) of the church, and its centenary celebrated by a significant enhancement and following service of dedication (delayed by the pandemic until 2023). The new enhancement includes a paved surround with dedication, and campaigns represented by the dead, cut into the stones; cleaning of the memorial; and enhancement of the original First World War dead lettering on it; and landscaping around this area.

Untended historic graves: to the west of the church is an area designated on our plan with crosses which consists of historic gravestones no longer tended. In our planning, we intend to record exactly the location of each, their inscriptions and design, and photograph them, with a view to removal and relocation along the churchyard boundary walls, so that this area can be further utilised for burials.

Rights of Way: The footpath along the side of the primary school to the steps by the lay-by is not a right of way. There is agreement that as a group we would want to see this path closed, to develop that edge of the churchyard, but that this had to be approached with extreme sensitivity. The only footpath which is legally a right of way is the tarmac path (Footpath number 42) running from the main gate near the end of Duke Street, through the churchyard and along the edge of the moat, to the far side of the new graveyard boundary.

The churchyard in context as part of the wider community and ecology: we have taken the view that the churchyard is only a part of the village ecology. As a result the church has made and put up swift boxes, bat boxes, and owl boxes in various locations in the village; we have lobbied to leave the main village street verges wild and uncut during the summer; we have promoted interest in Haughley wildlife through photograph competitions and Haughley wildlife exhibitions; and we have organised nature walks at Gallowsfield Wood led by experts on trees, wildflowers and fungi.

The legal and advisory framework: a number of publications and advisory bodies constitute a framework within which any coherent development plan should be made:

- The Diocesan ‘Care of Churches and Churchyards’ publication
- The Church of England Churchyard Rules and Regulations

- The Quinquennial Report
- Information produced by the Council for the Care of Churches
- Health and Safety law and regulations
- The Parish Council regulations on Local Neighbourhood Land

There are also several organisations or sources offering advice on different aspects of churchyard development and care

- The Eco Church Project
- Caring for God's Acre
- The Council for the Care of Churches publication 'Wildlife in Churchyards'
- The Council for the Care of Churches publication 'Archaeology in Churchyards'

Community and good neighbours: we undertake to respond to any concerns promptly and to liaise with all members and bodies of the community in managing the project.

2. Simple nature surveys/citizen science/monitoring

ST MARY'S CHURCHYARD SPRING 2019 SURVEY	
<i>Wild Flowers identified in the churchyard</i>	
Common Natweed	Yes
Trefoil	Yes
Speedwell	Yes
<i>Birds identified in the churchyard</i>	
Jackdaws	Yes
Pigeons	Yes
<i>Bats identified in the churchyard</i>	
Sonata	Yes
Pipistrelle	Yes
ST MARY'S CHURCHYARD SUMMER 2019 SURVEY	
<i>Wild Flowers identified in the churchyard</i>	
Common Natweed	Yes
Herb Roberts	Yes
Speedwell	Yes
Common Poppies	Yes
Trefoil	Yes
Orchids	None
<i>Butterflies identified in the churchyard</i>	
Red Admiral	Yes
Meadow Brown	Yes
<i>Birds identified in churchyard</i>	
Jackdaws	Yes
Pigeons	Yes
<i>Bats identified in churchyard</i>	
Sonata	Yes
Pipistrelle	Yes

From the minutes of the Churchyard Development Group: 'Terry reported on the summer 2019 survey of the flora and fauna, which he had recently undertaken. The main point to note was that there was very little of significance

discovered; he felt this was not unexpected given the limited findings of the spring survey. He would have expected to find a greater range on a site of this kind, and the findings proved the need for the proposed actions to encourage more insects and wildlife.'

As a result of these surveys we took the decision to leave as much of the churchyard as possible to grow wild during the summer months, to stick to 'No Mow May', and to place signs explaining to the public what the project is about. These signs also included biblical quotations about stewardship of nature. By 2021 review of this through another survey undertaken by a wild flower expert showed dramatic impact:

ST MARY'S CHURCHYARD SUMMER 2021 SURVEY



Summer 2021: initially 57 different wildflower and grass species were revealed by this survey, the seeds having lain dormant for years because the repeated cutting inhibited their growth. This compares to 5 wildflower species (not taking grasses into account) in summer 2019. A subsequent survey the following year by 2022 added another 5 species. This shows the exceptional impact of leaving large areas uncut every year.

HAUGHLEY PARISH - VILLAGE AND ENVIRONS - SUMMER 2022 BIRD SPECIES SURVEY

Little Grebe	Yes	Skylark	Yes
Cormorant	Yes	Barn Swallow	Yes
Grey Heron	Yes	House Martin	Yes
Little Egret	Yes	Swift	Yes
Great White Egret	Yes	Meadow Pipit	Yes
Mute Swan	Yes	Grey Wagtail	Yes
Canada Goose	Yes	Pied Wagtail	Yes
Egyptian Goose	Yes	Dunnock	Yes
Greylag Goose	Yes	Wren	Yes
Mallard	Yes	Robin	Yes
Buzzard	Yes	Blackbird	Yes
Red Kite	Yes	Fieldfare	Yes
Sparrowhawk	Yes	Mistle Thrush	Yes
Kestrel	Yes	Redwing	Yes
Pheasant	Yes	Song Thrush	Yes
Red-legged Partridge	Yes	Chiffchaff	Yes

Moorhen	Yes	Willow Warbler	Yes
Golden Plover	Yes	Reed Warbler	Yes
Lapwing	Yes	Sedge Warbler	Yes
Woodcock	Yes	Blackcap	Yes
Black-headed Gull	Yes	Garden Warbler	Yes
Common Gull	Yes	Lesser Whitethroat	Yes
Great Black-backed Gull	Yes	Common Whitethroat	Yes
Herring Gull	Yes	Goldcrest	Yes
Lesser Black-backed Gull	Yes	Long-tailed Tit	Yes
Cuckoo	Yes	Blue Tit	Yes
Collared Dove	Yes	Coal Tit	Yes
Feral Pigeon	Yes	Great Tit	Yes
Stock Dove	Yes	Marsh Tit	Yes
Turtle Dove	Yes	Nuthatch	Yes
Wood Pigeon	Yes	Treecreeper	Yes
Barn Owl	Yes	Carrion Crow	Yes
Tawny Owl	Yes	Jackdaw	Yes
Kingfisher	Yes	Jay	Yes
Great Spotted Woodpecker	Yes	Magpie	Yes
Green Woodpecker	Yes	Rook	Yes
House Sparrow	Yes	Starling	Yes
Bullfinch	Yes	Goldfinch	Yes
Chaffinch	Yes	Greenfinch	Yes
Linnet	Yes	Siskin	Yes
Reed Bunting	Yes	Yellowhammer	Yes
<i>And in neighbouring parishes, just across the parish boundary</i>			
Hobby	Yes	Grey Partridge	Yes
Yellow Wagtail	Yes	Whinchat	Yes
Stonechat	Yes	Raven	Yes

Note that the survey of bird species is across the whole parish and not only the churchyard. It was undertaken by an expert and members of the congregation several of whom belong to the RSPB. It shows that a number of red list species are resident in the parish – there are 19 in total listed here. The churchyard has clearly not been a habitat many species frequented in the past because the grass was routinely cut throughout the summer. The number of species within the churchyard has increased substantially since the start of the wilding project, but a further specific count over several days at different times of the year is needed to demonstrate this and show the number of additional species. Nonetheless, wilding has made a significant impact because it has encouraged insects which in turn attract birds back into such a space.

ST MARY'S CHURCHYARD SUMMER 2024



Additional to the plethora of wildflower species wilding has encouraged shown above, we have also now seen an orchid growing in the churchyard for the first time since wilding has been started. This is very encouraging.

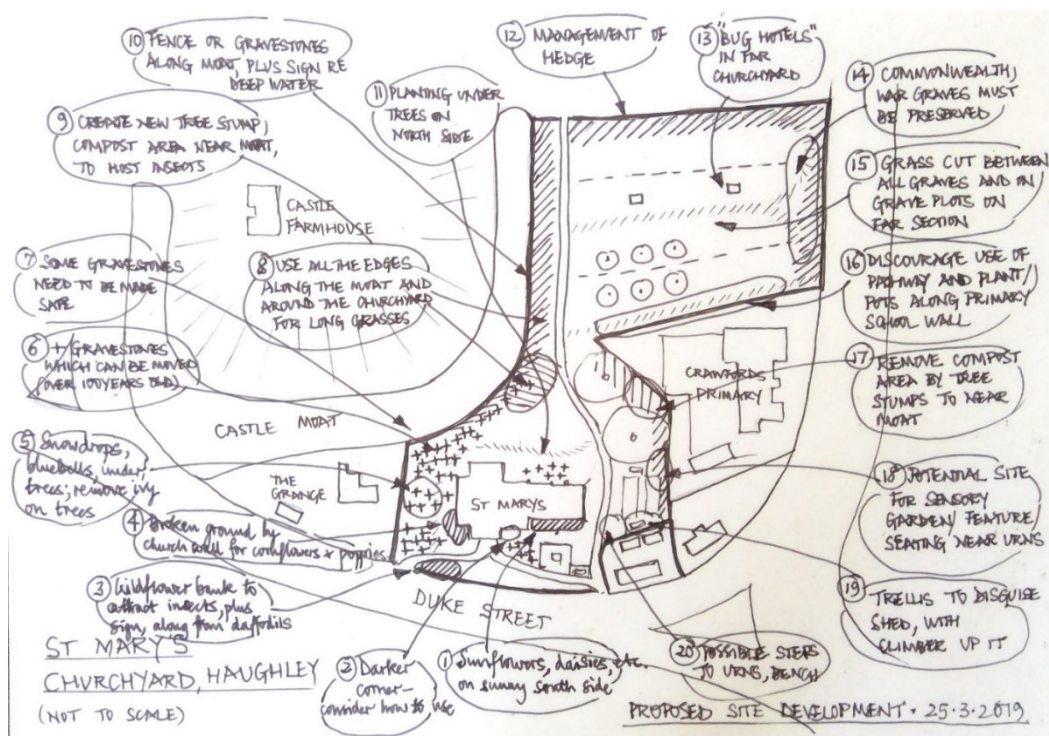
We have also seen swifts nesting for the first time in a swift box installed by the church (amongst many) just out of the main community in the village centre, which also suggests the swift colony is secure and looking for other nesting places just outside the main nucleus.

In our planning we do not wish to simply assume this significant growth in numbers of wildflowers and grasses, and the noted range of bird species, is sufficient. Wild areas need to be managed. We will explore adding drought hardy grasses to some areas, and preserving the most populated areas of wildflowers year-round as special corners of habitat. Currently species of bent, fescue, broom, rye grass, oat, and meadow grass act as a source for grasshoppers and caterpillars and we will need to integrate new species carefully and after taking specialist advice.

We need to investigate now the species in the churchyard over the winter months and see whether we can create a safe habitat for dormant animals to over-winter. We plan to use this data also to inform and develop further specialist areas such as nesting grounds for slowworms, hedgehogs, and a water and wetland environment. This involves creating shelter such as corrugated iron sheeting, hedgehog ramps and 'houses', and managing the bank under the moat with a more focused survey of this area.

These actions require focussed intervention and then some measurement of the outcomes in due course. This feeds back into the planning cycle to allow us to refine next steps.

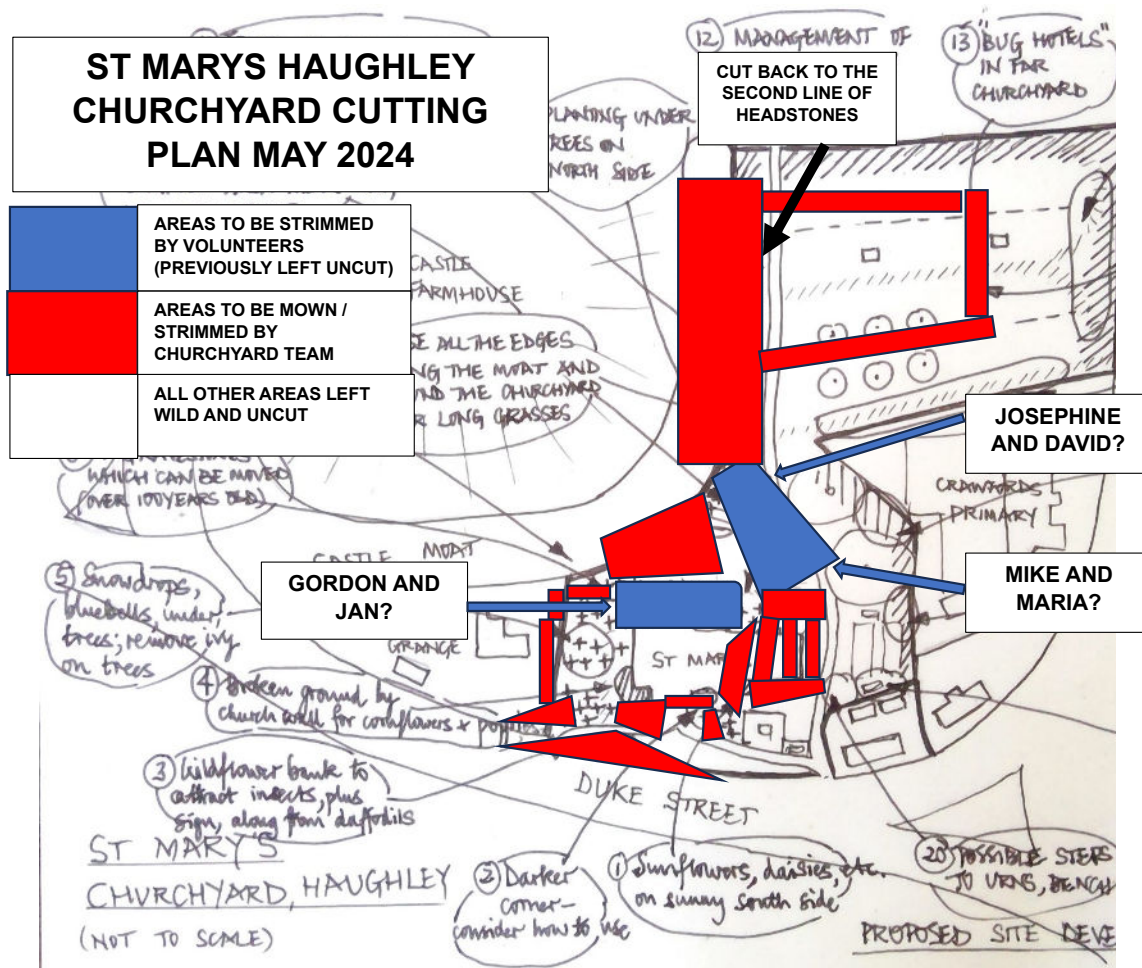
3. Simple maps



The following items correspond with the numbered annotations on the map. These are all planned actions over time:

1. Sunflowers, daisies etc.. to be planted against the church wall on the sunny south side of the church
2. The darker corner next to the church porch, which is block paved, could be developed with containers and to encourage insect life
3. A small wildflower bank could be created at the end of the row of daffodils, by the gate, to encourage insects; plus signage in key locations to explain the eco church project
4. Maintain broken ground by the church wall on the west side for cornflowers and poppies
5. Snowdrops and bluebells could be planted under the trees on the west side; ivy removed from the trees to maintain them
6. Gravestones which can be removed are identified on the plan (+) – while a more detailed survey of plots is required, this would release new burial ground
7. Most of the unsafe gravestones would be removed as they are over 100 years old, but there are some which still need making safe in other parts of the churchyard
8. All of the edges along the moat and around the edge of the churchyard (shaded to indicate on the plan) can be used for long grass and wild flowers to attract insects; the trees along the moat edge could be cleaned up – they are spindly dead elms, and long grass could be planted instead.
9. A new tree stump area and compost area can be created near the moat, moved from the boundary near the primary school to ensure rats are not encouraged close to the school
10. The deep water of the moat, given we would invite people into this space more with benches, ecology signage etc., could be 'fenced off' with moved older gravestones and / or fencing, plus warning signs
11. Further planting under the trees on the north side is possible
12. The far hedge has to be managed but further planting to thicken it may not be practical
13. 'Bug hotels' can be set up in the far churchyard to encourage insects
14. The Commonwealth War Graves must be maintained, along the road hedge
15. It was agreed the grass could be cut between all graves and on grave plots in the centre of the far section of the churchyard, and the edges kept as long grass
16. The group agreed that the use of the pathway along the school wall should be discouraged (and ultimately discontinued) and planting or pots put along this wall
17. The compost and tree stump area should be removed to the moat side, from near the school wall
18. A sensory garden can be created, plus perhaps a feature, and benches moved to more appropriate location, near the cremation plots; the form of cremation urn memorials can be reviewed to manage the space
19. A trellis can be set up near the shed to disguise it with climbers
20. Possible steps could be created up to the cremation area, re-aligning of bench

This plan is reviewed annually before the summer. Most recently we have adjusted the cut and uncut areas and cut back more in the front or south side of the church, the north side, where more of the tended graves are, and alongside the paths. The review in summer 2024 is summarised by the adapted plan below:



4. Annual plan of work management, reviewed and updated annually.

CHURCHYARD DEVELOPMENT PROJECT ACTION SEQUENCE

ACTION	COMMENT	REQUIRES FACULTY	BUDGET	WHO / DATE
1. Build a bug hotel	Pizza Group plan to hold a day to build one in August. Materials donated so negligible cost. Suggested	No		MJW, MEW, JG / August 2019

	in the centre of the far churchyard space.			
2. Erection of signage	Agreed that 'temporary' signage is erected first, not requiring a faculty, wooden construction with laminated information Permanent commercially produced signage might follow but is expensive and would require a faculty	No Yes	£300 TBC	MJW, JL / October - November 2021 Temporary signage in
3. Ongoing tree maintenance	See the tree management plan	No	£300 per annum	JG / Ongoing Done in 2022
4. Hedge management	Thinning of hedges at far end and along road near layby proposed. Requires a working party	No		CDP / October / November 2022
5. War Memorial enhancement	Scheduled to be carried out in 2020 but delayed by pandemic and lockdown	Yes	TBC	MB, JG, MJW / March 2023 completed and rededication service held
6. Identify unsafe gravestones and remove hazards	Churchyard regulations apply; a 'regulation-friendly' solution is required	No		MJW / August / September 2023
7. Move the compost area to near the moat	Requires a working party	No		PS / October 2023
8. Commission a survey of access to the school particularly traffic on the footpath to the layby	A survey of cars and people on routes to the school, undertaken with the school, so that we can supply statistics to help seek a pedestrian crossing to the front entrance of the school. This would be even more important when the proposed development on Green Road is built. This might involve a working party to focus on key times of the day.	No		MJW, JG / Crossing completed 2023 as part of CIL funding by the developed of Green Road housing estate
9. New bench seating	Identify locations; could be sponsored by those who wish to have a named bench	Yes	£750	JG, GS, JS / January 2024 bench donated in memory of Pip Jackson Churchwarden
10. Liaison with primary school over curriculum engagement with the churchyard project	Suggested first approach before the end of the summer term 2019; more detailed discussion September 2019	No		MEW, MJW / Ongoing - September 2024

11. Planting of bulbs as on the plan	Requires a working party; plus cost of bulbs	No	£200 for bulbs	JL / October 2024
12. Preparing a bank along the curved section of the moat, to plant wild flowers in the spring	Requires a working party; some materials – wood, sand, etc.. for construction	Yes	£150	JL, AF / October / November 2024
13. Completion of mapping of gravestones over 100 years old; follow up on graveyard mapping society which has already carried out a survey	Requires a serious team to work on this; on each memorial, the name, date, what else is written on it, need to be recorded. There are about 100 stones to record and map. The location of the stones must be mapped, provisionally and more approximately through simple measurement and aerial drone photographs. If necessary this can be developed through a more formal theodolite survey but this might incur a cost from a local surveyor. This is critical as the outcome of this survey will dictate what goes in the faculty bid to remove these stones.	No		JG, MJW, MEW / March 2025
14. Design a sensory garden near the cremation urns; prepare the ground	Requires knowledge of appropriate planting; and a working party	No		MJW, DF / March 2025
15. Planting of wild flowers on the bank	Requires a working party; Terry will advise on plants / species	No	£100	MJW, JL / March 2025
16. Trellis to screen shed		No	£400	PS/ March 2025
17. Planting of all beds on the plan – sunflowers, daisies, cornflowers, poppies	Requires a working party; cost of plants	No	£100	JL, MJW / April 2025
18. Removal of 100 year old headstones	Might be done with a working party (could this be on the 'community payback' scheme? Or local craftsmen / labour?); cost at present unknown until survey completed	Yes	TBC	JG / March 2026 at earliest

19. New access path to new graves where older gravestones have been removed	This is likely to be a simple north-south line from the existing path near the west door into the plot currently occupied by older gravestones.	Yes	TBC	JG, MJW / March 2026 at earliest
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5. Engagement (active encouragement of church members/volunteers/wider community to nurture and protect the environment)

A wide range of strategies is employed to engage the wider community and congregation:

Regular communication

- Services focussed on ecology and nature conservation
- Eco Church board in the church
- Pizza eco element regularly part of services
- Community Café in the village hall – specific dates

Events

- ‘Big cut’ in July engaging the village community
- Nature Walks at Gallowsfield Wood
- ‘Plant a pot’ through whole village
- Haughley Wildlife Exhibition in Maxwell Charnley community room
- Annual Haughley wildlife photography competition
- Talks by experts on bats, swifts, hedgehogs

Collaboration

- Working with Haughley Nature Watch
- Crawfords School engagement – gardening club run by church members, Art club, use of church for Assemblies, use of churchyard for specific projects
- Parish Council – liaison and working together
- Parish Bio Diversity Group lobbied

Projects

- Swift boxes – over thirty made and installed by the church
- Owl boxes
- Practical ‘how to’ leaflets given out
- Haughley Nature Walks leaflets

These strategies will be added to and reviewed annually; they are employed variously and some are regular features while others are one-off projects...

6. Impact and celebration (Outline how you will celebrate and share what your church is doing and about how wildlife is flourishing)

Impact

- Wild flower count raised since wilding – from 5 to 57 then later to 62
- Orchids now growing in churchyard 2024 (none in 2019 and 2020)
- Swifts extending area of occupation (2024 box in Green Road occupied) *Target 25 species*
- Slowworms increased in number in churchyard
- Bird species sighted in the churchyard increased (80 including 13 red list species *Target 25 species*)
- Toads sighted since wilding – *Target 25 species*
- Hedgehog conservation talks *Target 25 species*
- Significant community engagement
- Awareness raised in the wider community

Celebration

- Exhibitions
- Newsletter
- Displays
- Website
- Eco Church board
- Primary School curriculum projects
- Primary School Global Neighbours Project (still in train)

7. Dates for review

Annual review in April / May each year – newly appointed PCC each April so this links with the cycle of PCC membership.

Interim review at Eco-Church Group Meetings held periodically during the year.

Progress review at every PCC Meeting as Eco Church is a standing item on the agenda.

JG / MJW

APPENDIX 1 : POSSIBLE PRIMARY SCHOOL CURRICULUM PROJECTS INVOLVING THE CHURCHYARD

The following is not an exhaustive list of ideas which might be used as part of the curriculum for different age groups. There will be many more. Several approaches can be brought together into multi-disciplinary projects if desired.

Ecology

- Constructing and maintaining a bug hotel; lessons on the ecosystem developed by insect life
- Planting and maintaining a section of the churchyard
- Carrying out flora and fauna surveys
- Identifying, drawing, analysing the features of different trees and flowers
- The churchyard as an example of why we should encourage biodiversity
- Photography project showing the churchyard in all seasons and all weathers

History

- Identifying and research war graves / the war memorial, in the context of the history of the First World War and Second World War
- Researching the oldest gravestones and families' histories
- Researching the link of the church to the Salem witch trials; helping to host the annual visit of US descendants to St Mary's
- The history of the church – architecture, construction, interior – writing a new church history and guide
- The history of churchyards as social meeting places, markets, games, of burials, etc..
- Researching the Reformation and its impact through the example of Haughley
- The church and the castle – why was Haughley a major site until the collapse of the castle? The layout of the streets on the castle bailey
- 'Original' research using facsimiles of some of the Palmer archive documents about Haughley

Religious Significance

- Understanding some of the basic teachings and rites of the Church of England
- The significance of the orientation, structure and contents of the church
- Understanding the purpose of the churchyard as a place of quiet reflection, prayer, and as a community space
- Researching, drawing, religious imagery and statuary including the war memorial cross

Art and Drama

- Drawing the churchyard

- Detailed drawings and observation of particular species of flower
- Mumming plays, 'mystery' plays, creating scenes from the church year, etc...

Maths

- Measuring the height of the tower
- Measuring distance
- Measuring volume

'Real Life' Projects

Undertaking people and traffic surveys to make travel to school safer

APPENDIX 2: REPORT ON DEVELOPMENT OF THE CHURCHYARD 2022-2023

The most significant aspect of churchyard development has been the renovation and enhancement of the distinctive War Memorial, in honour of the centenary of its erection in 1920; the project was delayed by the pandemic until the formal rededication in March 2023. Particular thanks are owed to Margaret Buttle who has been the driving force behind the whole project, the Committee of the Haughley British Legion, the Friends of the Haughley War Memorial, and all those who made donations, engaged in fund-raising, and supported this wonderful project. The Memorial itself has been cleaned, the lettering revived, and the area around it paved and levelled with the path so that there is now wheelchair and disabled access to the Memorial itself. The many service campaigns are carved into the slabs and the overall inscription is 'Haughley Remembers, 1920-2020', in honour of the centenary. The Service of Rededication was led by the Right Reverend Martin Seeley, the Bishop of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich, and attended by over 150 people. Wreaths were laid by community groups and organisations, and we remembered in particular Mr Roy Buttle and Mr Pip Jackson, both so instrumental in the development of the project. This was a significant milestone and a solemn and fitting tribute in Haughley's history; 29 men from Haughley lost their lives in the First World War alone, the highest number in England for the size of the parish.

The Eco Church Group meetings and bid, begun prior to the pandemic, have been revived in early 2023 and in the interim considerable progress has been made on a number of initiatives. The aim is to make a formal bid for the Eco Church Award later in 2023 or 2024. The pattern of grass cutting and uncut areas left to encourage wildlife was adapted in the summer of 2022, following some concerns about specific areas in 2021, and there have been no further issues, so this pattern is now established. The very hot summer in 2022 meant that grasses did not grow and there was no need for a summer cut in July; but in September there was once again a community cut which was well attended, and we are most grateful to all those who gave their time and effort. In January and February 2023 a small team of Robert Stiff, Richard Coe and Mike Walker planned, sourced the materials for, and constructed a large new cremation bed at the rear of the existing beds, with plots for over thirty cremation memorials. A bench in memory of former Churchwarden Pip Jackson has been donated to the church by his widow and once restored by Gordon and Jan will be located in the churchyard.

Dr M J Walker FRSA