

At various times of the year different areas of grass are left uncut. This is deliberate, to encourage a number of wild flowers to grow, and to allow them time to set seeds. Since different plants flower at different times of the year, the mowing regime will vary accordingly. The grass around trees and along boundary hedges is also left uncut, in order to provide cover and habitat for various wildlife.

We maintain an overall policy of environmentally friendly management of the Churchyard. A membrane, covered with bark chippings has been laid under the yew hedge in the churchyard extension to prevent excessive weed growth.

It is hoped that, during the course of the next few years, a log of all the gravestones including inscriptions, will be completed, building on the work already done by the Local History Group. This will assist visitors who may be seeking to find information about relatives buried here.

The southern boundary has been planted up with native species of young hedging plants. The hedge will be maintained annually, and once it is mature enough it will be professionally "laid". This laying process has already been completed on a section of hedge in the northwest corner of the churchyard.

In describing the plants we have used some of the common names generally used. For example the wild arum *arum maculatum* is described as 'Lords-and-Ladies' but you may also know it as 'Cuckoo-pint', or perhaps it has another local Oxfordshire name? If you know other local names for the plants you find, we will be interested to know about them.

A Red Kite has taken up residence nearby and can sometimes be seen on top of the weather vane on the Tower. We will be interested to hear of any plants, animals, birds, moths, butterflies or insects that you see in the churchyard and when you saw them. Please contact Gilbert Adams, 93 High Street, Chalgrove OX44 7SS.

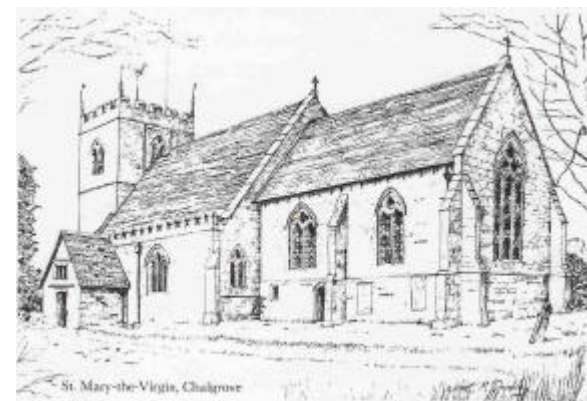
This Churchyard is the burial ground for this parish and is maintained in partnership with Chalgrove Parish Council. We would ask you to respect this Churchyard as you would any other burial ground and to be aware of those people who tend and visit graves here.

Thank you for your interest and consideration. We hope you enjoy your visit and find plenty to interest you.

St.Mary's Parochial Church Council

www.chalgrovechurch.org

ST.MARY'S CHURCH, CHALGROVE

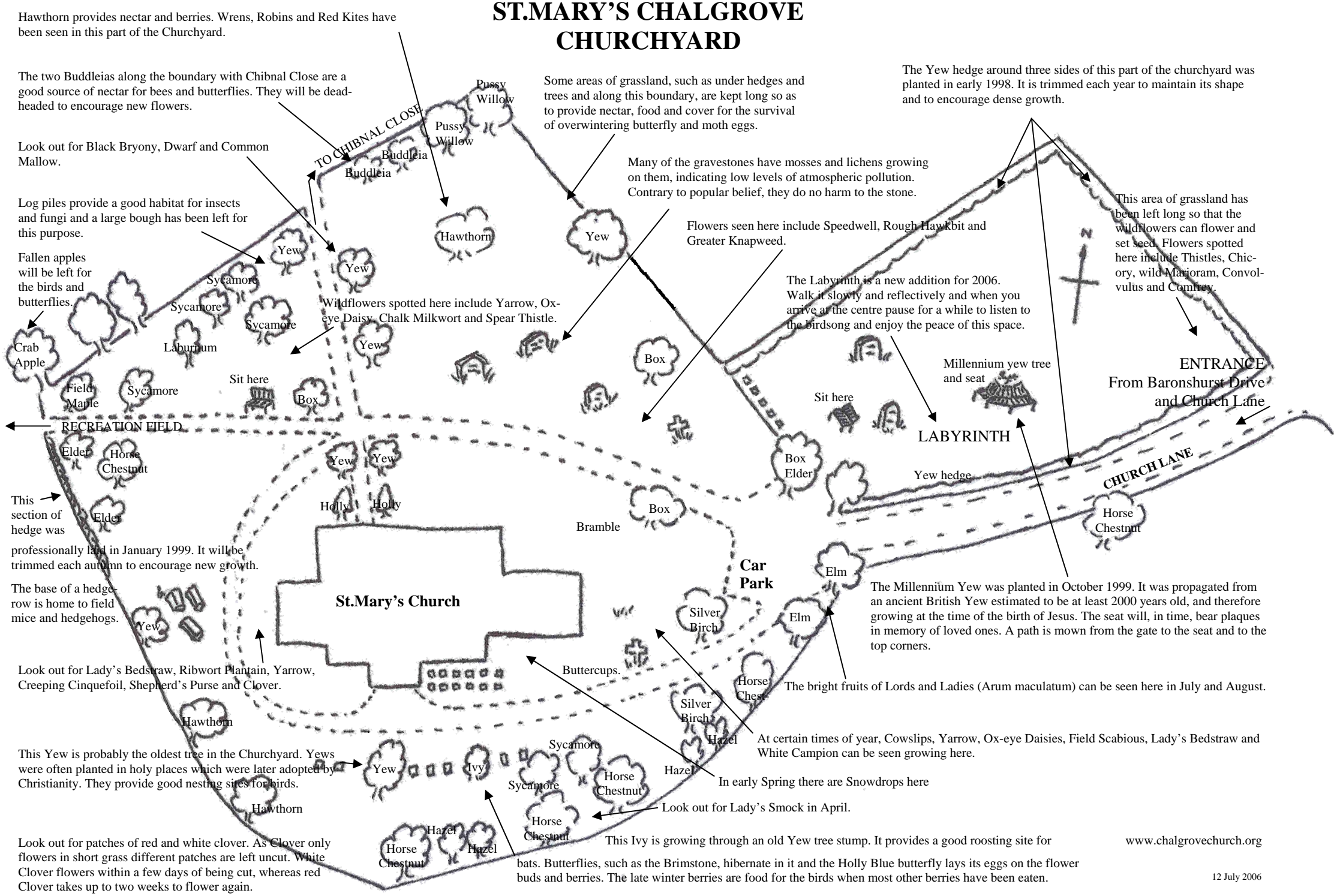


WILDLIFE IN OUR CHURCHYARD

This leaflet describes some of the flora and fauna that you may find in our Churchyard. Some, like the Yew tree, are very old while others will have bloomed only today!

The Churchyard is part of the national "Living Churchyard and Cemetery Project for Wildlife Conservation" coordinated by the Berks, Bucks and Oxon Wildlife Trust (BBOWT). As a result of conservation policies already introduced, the extensive wildlife records that are being kept, and the planned projects outlined for the next year, the Church was awarded a certificate by the project in June 2003.

ST.MARY'S CHALGROVE CHURCHYARD



Hawthorn provides nectar and berries. Wrens, Robins and Red Kites have been seen in this part of the Churchyard.

The two Buddleias along the boundary with Chibnal Close are a good source of nectar for bees and butterflies. They will be dead-headed to encourage new flowers.

Look out for Black Bryony, Dwarf and Common Mallow.

Log piles provide a good habitat for insects and fungi and a large bough has been left for this purpose.

Fallen apples will be left for the birds and butterflies.

RECREATION FIELD

This section of hedge was professionally laid in January 1999. It will be trimmed each autumn to encourage new growth.

The base of a hedge row is home to field mice and hedgehogs.

Look out for Lady's Bedstraw, Ribwort Plantain, Yarrow, Creeping Cinquefoil, Shepherd's Purse and Clover.

This Yew is probably the oldest tree in the Churchyard. Yews were often planted in holy places which were later adopted by Christianity. They provide good nesting sites for birds.

Look out for patches of red and white clover. As Clover only flowers in short grass different patches are left uncut. White Clover flowers within a few days of being cut, whereas red Clover takes up to two weeks to flower again.

Some areas of grassland, such as under hedges and trees and along this boundary, are kept long so as to provide nectar, food and cover for the survival of overwintering butterfly and moth eggs.

Many of the gravestones have mosses and lichens growing on them, indicating low levels of atmospheric pollution. Contrary to popular belief, they do no harm to the stone.

Flowers seen here include Speedwell, Rough Hawkbit and Greater Knapweed.

Wildflowers spotted here include Yarrow, Ox-eye Daisy, Chalk Milkwort and Spear Thistle.

The Labyrinth is a new addition for 2006. Walk it slowly and reflectively and when you arrive at the centre pause for a while to listen to the birdsong and enjoy the peace of this space.

The Yew hedge around three sides of this part of the churchyard was planted in early 1998. It is trimmed each year to maintain its shape and to encourage dense growth.

This area of grassland has been left long so that the wildflowers can flower and set seed. Flowers spotted here include Thistles, Chicory, wild Marjoram, Convolvulus and Comfrey.

Sit here

The Millennium Yew was planted in October 1999. It was propagated from an ancient British Yew estimated to be at least 2000 years old, and therefore growing at the time of the birth of Jesus. The seat will, in time, bear plaques in memory of loved ones. A path is mown from the gate to the seat and to the top corners.

The bright fruits of Lords and Ladies (*Arum maculatum*) can be seen here in July and August.

At certain times of year, Cowslips, Yarrow, Ox-eye Daisies, Field Scabious, Lady's Bedstraw and White Campion can be seen growing here.

In early Spring there are Snowdrops here

Look out for Lady's Smock in April.

This Ivy is growing through an old Yew tree stump. It provides a good roosting site for bats. Butterflies, such as the Brimstone, hibernate in it and the Holly Blue butterfly lays its eggs on the flower buds and berries. The late winter berries are food for the birds when most other berries have been eaten.