

## HOLY TRINITY CHURCHYARD

Holy Trinity church is set back among trees just off the A4, to the East of Calne town centre. The church was built as a chapel of ease in 1851, by the then vicar, Canon John Guthrie, to meet the needs of the growing community of Quemerford. Holy Trinity's churchyard started to be used for burials at this time as St Mary's churchyard was "overfull".

The churchyard, including 6 allotments, covers just over 4 acres and is bounded by the A4 to the South, Oldbury Prior to the West, a lane to Churchill Close to the North and the lane beside Holy Trinity Academy to the East. Ivy was removed from the southern boundary wall in 2012 and the wall was repaired and repointed. The upkeep of the church and churchyard is the sole responsibility of the Calne & Blackland PCC, no grant has been received from Calne Town Council for several years. A contractor, Naturesway, cuts the grass and hedges from April to September. Water is laid on to four points around the churchyard and a skip is provided in the South East corner.



There are many yew trees, redwoods, a Lodgepole Pine and elder, laurel, hawthorn, holly and blackberry bushes in the churchyard. Just south of the church porch is a flowering cherry tree which flowers every year in May. It was cut back in 2013 after the flowers had died back. In early spring there are many snowdrops and crocuses at the southern

boundary of the churchyard. This area is left uncut until late August-early September to encourage wild flora and fauna and in the spring many daffodils, primroses and bluebells are found there and in June moon daisies and hawkweed.



In recent years a rookery has developed in the tall Lime trees at the southern boundary. Swifts and Swallows can be found on the North side of the church of a summer's evening. Robins, Wrens, Blackbirds, Thrushes, Dunnocks, Woodpigeons and Woodpeckers can be found in the churchyard and animals such as badgers, foxes, squirrels and muntjac deer have been seen in the churchyard. Slow-worms and toads are often found and wasp nests can be found in the shed to the North of the church. Honey bees and bumblebees are found throughout the churchyard in the summer and bats are often seen there at dusk.

People regularly visit the graves of their loved ones and many local people use the churchyard for walking their dogs. It is also used as a short cut to Wessington Park and the river Marden. In August and September blackberries are in abundance and are picked by members of the congregation and local people. Elderberries also can be found in September to the joy of home-made wine enthusiasts.



A group of Leylandii, on the northern boundary, were cut down in 2011 and a natural hedge was planted. In the spring primroses, primulas and cowslips are found there and later forget-me-nots and foxgloves. In 2011 a large mound of grave spoil, which had developed over the years, was levelled and planted with grass seed. There are 6 allotments at the northern part of the churchyard. These will be reclaimed as required for use as graves when the existing facility is full, which is anticipated could be in 4 or 5 years time.

Besides normal graves and a cremation area, there are 18 war graves in the churchyard 10 from WW1, 8 from WW2 and also the grave of a Commander who served at the Battle of Trafalgar.

Replacement gates to the drive were completed in 2014. A gate and grill over the steps to the boiler room were completed in 2015. A replacement gate between the old and new parts of the churchyard was installed in 2017. A toilet suitable for the disabled, installed in the shed to the north of the church, was completed in 2017. Grants from WHCT, donations and legacies helped to fund these projects.

We entered the RHS Britain in Bloom- In your neighbourhood competition for the first time in 2012 and from 2013 to 2015 were presented with certificates for Level 3 -Developing and in 2016 and 17 Level 4 - Thriving. In 2016 and 2017 we also entered Pride in Parks and received a 4 star award.

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