

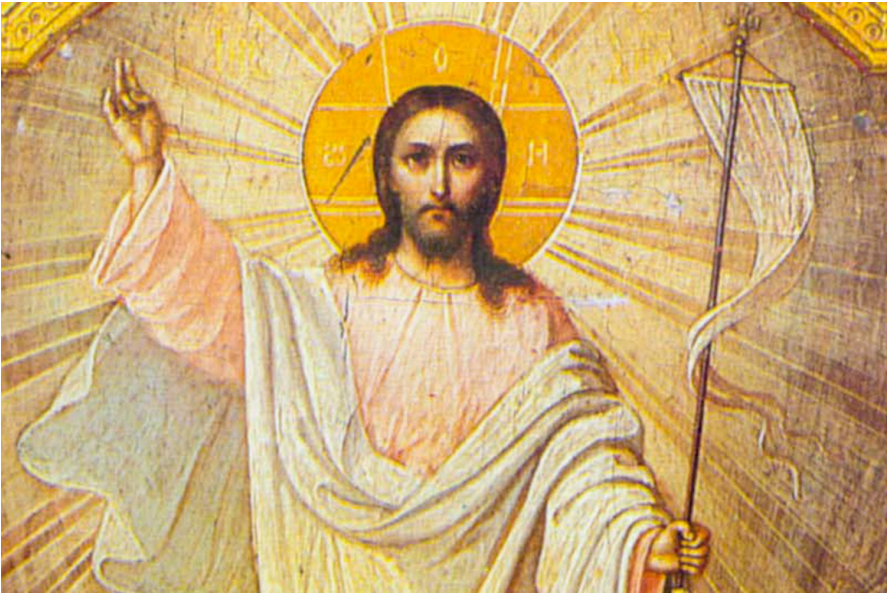


*The Parish of
S. Philip & S. James
Up Hatherley*



Parish Magazine

April 2026



The Lord is Risen!

Happy Easter

*S. Philip and S. James Parish Church,
Cold Pool Lane, Up Hatherley, Cheltenham, GL51 6HX.*

Parish Priest In Vacancy

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Church Centre Bookings and Enquiries

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Father's Mark...



“So Long, Farewell, auf Wiedersehen, Goodbye.
Adieu, adieu to you and you and you”.

These are the well-known lyrics by Oscar Hammerstein of the song from *The Sound of Music*. And the picture above is of the final sight at the end of the tv series *M.A.S.H.* These seem appropriate words and picture as I announce that I have been invited to take up the post of Chaplain to Huggens's College in Kent.

In the seven years that I have been Parish Priest & Vicar of S. Philip & S. James, Up Hatherley there have been several challenges and changes here and in the world at large.

As a priest member of The Society, SSC, Confraternity of the Blessed Sacrament and a Priest Associate member of the Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham I am committed to life as a traditional Catholic within the Church of England. A life which I do not see as exclusive but rather as a great gift to the wider Church to come closer to that new and living way, which is Christ. A life and ministry this parish asked and sort. Right from my

start here in Up Hatherley I have received the support and fellowship of like-minded clergy, active and retired, for which I am very grateful and have appreciated their length and depth of experience which should be encouraged all awhile the retired clergy feel able.

In my initial months I tried to get to know and be known by the faith family, schools and community, however after Christmas Covid-19 struck and everywhere was plunged into restrictions of movement and community. Although this didn't prevent me from fulfilling my frontline role and duty of tending the sick and dying in the parish and community. Happily, no members of the congregation died of Covid during the pandemic. However, I did meet the technical challenge of live-streaming services on our Facebook page prior to the technical abilities of our present PCC Secretary and 'techno-master' Jeremy.

One of the first tasks that I met upon my arrival in September 2019 to a new parish, diocese and location was to oversee the completion of the re-roofing of the church. I had had experience of re-roofing churches before! Ironically, Covid and the closure of the church to physical church attendance made the re-roofing a lot easier.

Being an Anglo-Catholic visibility is very important. In today's world, visibility takes many forms—from our website and social media presence to even something as simple as wearing parish-branded clothing. For me, visibility means much more than just having our church doors open. It's about engaging with our wider context... being seen and active. I had an experience that exemplified this: I was wearing a parish polo shirt with our logo on it in the local fish & chip shop when someone in the queue struck up a conversation and asked about the church. A

simple gesture like this opens the door to a conversation, a chance to invite others into our faith community as well as disseminating information. It's not just about the clergy—though we do serve as walking invitations by wearing clerical collars—but the laity too can be ambassadors of invitation. Parishioners wearing shirts with the logo, for example, can spark conversations and be a witness for the church even before they speak a word.

In my time here I have encouraged all members of the congregation, no matter their age or stage of life, to become **'Invitational Evangelists'**. This can be as simple as inviting a friend to church, sharing a post on social media, or saying, "Come and see."

This phrase can easily become a rallying cry, inviting people to explore the faith. To enable this and give people confidence in their faith, I have, over the years, sort to bring different preachers for Mass, speakers for quiet days and study talks, Lent and Advent meditation courses and proposed that we host an Alpha course—a great introduction to Christianity in a friendly, non-judgmental environment. It's a way to meet people where they are and give them a deeper understanding of who we are as a church, the beauty of our liturgy, and the richness of our Christian fellowship.

In addition to visible invitations, it has been important to engage with our local community—especially with the schools; Lakeside and Greatfield Park, preschool groups; Childminders, Foxcubs, and Playhouse. This has given an opportunity not just to teach the faith but to reach families who may not yet be part of our parish. It's through these young people that we can introduce their families to the

sacramental life of the Church, whether through Baptism or Confirmation. The seeds we plant in the young today will hopefully grow into a vibrant parish family for generations to come.

But the vision is not just about outreach. It's also about **mission**—bringing people together and creating spaces for discussion, fellowship and faith-building. And one important witness during my time here has been that of the Community Payback Scheme.

To help achieve mission, is making full use of our excellent parish centre and its facilities for community-building events. Over the past two years I have enjoyed cooking for our **Bingo and Supper Nights**, which has brought together people from our faith community as well as those outside it. It's been a wonderful way to share a meal, knatter and provided an atmosphere and opportunity for the people to speak to others in a relaxed setting about their experiences with the Church and their own journeys of faith as well as have fun and win at Bingo!

Although we are only one of two Anglo-Catholic parishes in the entire diocese of Gloucester, it is crucial that S. Philip & S. James maintains engaged with the wider deanery and diocesan life. We are part of something much bigger than ourselves, and it is therefore important that we represent and help maintain the balance. These are opportunities for us to come together with other churches, especially with those of the Oswestry family of parishes, to grow in faith, and to deepen our sense of belonging within the wider life of the Church of England.

As people work to become **Invitational Evangelists**, it is important to be enthusiastic about outreach and mission. To paraphrase an Anglo-Catholic bishop and former Walsingham Administrator, we need to say to others, “I’m going, it’s going to be great, why don’t you come too?” Everyone has a part to play in making S. Philip & S. James visible, inviting others to join and bringing the light of Christ into the community.

In my time here I have celebrated the sacraments, preached the Gospel and taught the faith, visited the sick, counselled the distressed, encouraged the laity, nurtured the young, baptised, confirmed, wed and buried those in my Cure and ensured that my church and centre is safe and fit for purpose.

I leave you in the knowledge that the parish has a growing congregation of all ages, abilities and gifts. I hope and pray that the worship, witness and fellowship continued under my stewardship will flourish further and the parish remain, enabled by God, a beacon of the Anglo-Catholic tradition for many years to come and for all to enjoy.

Goodbye, Farewell and Amen.

Father Mark



Holy Week & EASTER

Please note that the parish is now in vacancy.

Faith Family members and all who normally attend S. Philip & S. James during this time, are invited to attend services for Holy Week and Easter at All Saints Church, All Saints Road, Pittville, Cheltenham, GL52 2EY.

The following services are offered on these dates:

Holy Thursday: 6.30pm Mass of the Last Supper.

Good Friday: 3pm The Liturgy of the Passion.

Holy Saturday: 7.30pm The Easter Vigil & First
Mass of Easter.

Easter Sunday: 10.30am Procession & The Solemn
Mass.

Services at S. Philip & S. James will resume on Sunday 12th April
at 10.00 am with Mass,
Baptism & Confirmation by Bishop Paul Thomas.

Church Calendar

April 2026

Wed 1 st	in HOLY WEEK	The Easter Triduum	The Contemplative life
Thurs 2 nd	MAUNDY THURSDAY		Mass of the Lord's Supper
Fri 3 rd	GOOD FRIDAY		The Solemn Liturgy
Sat 4 th	HOLY SATURDAY		The Vigil
SUN 5th	EASTER DAY		The Lord's Resurrection
Mon 6 th	in EASTER WEEK		Catechists
Tues 7 th	in EASTER WEEK		Christian Unity
Wed 8 th	in EASTER WEEK		Orthodox Christianity
Thurs 9 th	in EASTER WEEK		Philosophers
Fri 10 th	in EASTER WEEK		Prisoners & Captives
Sat 11 th	in EASTER WEEK		Families & Young People
SUN 12th	2nd SUNDAY within EASTERTIDE		The Parish
Mon 13 th	Feria		Interfaith Relations
Tues 14 th	Feria		Respect for the earth
Wed 15 th	Feria		AA
Thurs 16 th	Feria		Rural Communities
Fri 17 th	Feria		The Order of Hospitallers
Sat 18 th	Feria		Media & the Arts
SUN 19th	3rd SUNDAY within EASTERTIDE		The Parish
Mon 20 th	Feria		Commerce & Industry
Tues 21 st	S. Anselm, B & Dr.		Medical Practitioners
Wed 22 nd	Feria		All God's Children
Thurs 23 rd	S. GEORGE M		PATRON of ENGLAND
Fri 24 th	Feria		Expectant mothers
Sat 25 th	S. MARK, Evangelist		The Patron of Venice
SUN 26th	4th SUNDAY within EASTERTIDE		The Parish
Mon 27 th	Feria		The Homeless
Tues 28 th	Feria		Victims of Crime
Wed 29 th	S. Catherine of Siena V & Dr.		Patron of Europe
Thurs 30 th	Feria		Places of Education

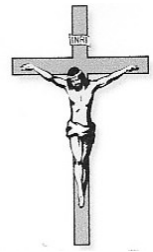
SUNDAYS: 10:00 Parish Mass

WEEKDAYS: Said Mass on Thursdays is suspended during the vacancy.

For times of other services please see the church noticeboard or
visit our parish website.

The church is open daily for Private Prayer and closes at 15.00 (3pm).

The Years Mind



Every day the Church remembers and prays for the souls of those whose anniversary of death falls during the month. Below are those who we remember this month.

- 1st Trevor Mathews (Pr).*
- 2nd Gwendoline A. Link, Allen Whittern.*
- 4th Wenda Margaret Blissett Wood.*
- 5th May Winfield.*
- 7th Richard Link.*
- 8th Louis Wilman*
- 10th Ernest Thomas Simons.*
- 12th Mary Elizabeth Miles, William Charles Haylock, Brenda Mansell.*
- 13th Ian Wilson.*
- 14th Stephen John Townsend.*
- 15th Christopher Andrew Willcox.*
- 16th Matthew Brian Cook, Henry Ernest Herbert, Linda Ann Brett, Maureen Chidley.*
- 17th Phyllis Evelyn Morris.*
- 18th Garnald Morris Gregory, James Ernest Tadjell, Godfrey S. Allan.*
- 19th Daphne Matthews.*
- 20th Mildred Moore, Alfred Williams.*
- 21st Anthony Postans, Alexander James Ralston (Pr)*
- 22nd Harry Thurston.*
- 25th Lilian Luxon.*
- 26th John Edward Matson.*
- 28th May Edith Carter Tarrall, Gwen Gutteridge.*

From the Diocese.



Each year I try to spend most of Holy Week with one of our benefices, sharing the journey we take from Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem, through to the Last Supper and betrayal on Maundy Thursday, standing by the cross on Good Friday, and then to the glimmering hope and joy of Easter morning with its promise of new life for all in the resurrection.

While I always try to keep Holy Week free of regular meetings, that of course never quite works, so the week is lived alongside the everyday. Added to this is the privilege of sharing with Bishop Rachel in the Chrism Eucharist in the Cathedral on Maundy Thursday, when the clergy and lay leaders of the diocese gather to recommit ourselves to the ministry we share, and also sharing in the Easter Eve Vigil with confirmations, as candidates make their "yes" to following the risen Christ.

This year I am looking forward to being with the communities of the Beacon Benefice and sharing with them not only the principal services, but also an Alpha session, Evensong, and a Walk of Witness. It will be a busy week—but then it is in each of our communities.

Again this year, we will be living this week that takes us to the foot of the cross, to the darkness of Good Friday afternoon and to Jesus' cry of abandonment, in a world full of conflict and war. We will walk the way of the cross with Jesus, alongside the victims of violence, refugees, and so many living in fear, and we will do so carrying our own fears—for ourselves, our communities, our families, and our future. Holy Week is no

escape from these. Indeed, these are the burdens we bring with us; these are the burdens we will lay at the cross on Good Friday. These are the burdens Jesus takes for us as he cries, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”.

Of course, we would like it to be easier. We would like to move straight from the triumphal entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday to the triumph of the resurrection. That would be easy – but such a journey could never satisfy the challenges of our world or our lives. It would skirt around the reality of all we face today. The wonder of what Jesus does this week is that he faces, on our behalf, the realities we face, and in taking them upon himself on Good Friday, he opens up the possibility of a new beginning, as we glimpse, even from the darkness, the dawning light of resurrection.

The journey of Holy Week is not one for the faint hearted. It takes courage to step into it, the courage to acknowledge our fears. Yet, open to what God has done on the cross and is doing even now in the world, stepping out in faith also promises the gift of hope—a sure and confident hope that no matter how deep the darkness, Jesus Christ has triumphed, and we can live free from fear.

For so many, that hope seems hard to believe today. This is why my prayer for each of our parishes and communities in the diocese is that we may indeed find the courage and commitment to step out in faith, to stay the course to the darkest moments of this week, that we may see the true brightness of the hope we have in Jesus Christ, who overcomes even death so that we, our world and its peoples, might live.

May God bless you in keeping Holy Week.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style. To the left of the name is a small, simple cross symbol.



'STARTERS'

Our Sunday morning children's group

meets on the 2nd & 4th Sundays

at 10:00 in the Church Centre.

**Worship & activities before joining
the adults in Church
for the rest of the Mass.**

Go to our website:

www.achurchnearyou.com/church/14268

for weekly children's activity sheets.

**WE LOOK FORWARD TO
WELCOMING YOU.**

Puzzle Time

Sites of the Holy Land

E	N	W	N	E	U	L	B	S	R	T	A	N	H	R	N	R	E
C	A	P	E	R	N	A	U	M	I	C	E	T	S	E	A	R	G
E	Z	I	G	O	T	I	T	U	O	N	Q	L	E	N	T	E	M
S	A	I	R	E	B	I	T	E	A	T	O	O	N	I	T	A	R
D	R	B	E	E	V	N	V	M	M	J	N	O	V	E	L	C	P
J	E	R	U	S	A	L	E	M	E	P	L	E	E	T	N	H	A
H	T	E	R	C	M	S	G	R	N	O	L	A	D	U	E	L	T
B	H	O	I	A	H	I	I	M	G	F	E	E	N	R	U	J	E
S	E	L	V	T	S	C	B	O	S	L	W	T	M	T	A	S	R
L	A	H	E	R	H	C	L	U	P	E	S	Y	L	O	H	G	N
G	H	G	R	O	M	N	N	N	T	A	B	G	H	A	U	O	O
A	B	E	J	L	B	I	S	T	A	T	O	E	E	O	S	N	S
N	H	A	O	R	M	U	R	T	A	E	C	M	T	C	O	E	T
A	S	O	R	O	L	O	D	A	I	V	A	O	A	H	L	I	E
R	N	M	D	B	E	M	R	B	K	D	J	N	N	O	A	U	R
M	R	T	A	Z	E	G	Y	O	T	N	T	P	A	N	A	N	A
U	E	N	N	H	D	T	A	R	R	H	I	H	A	C	E	H	Y
Q	N	B	N	T	K	G	A	L	I	L	E	E	E	H	C	N	A

Bethany

Galilee

Jericho

Qumran

Cana

Garden Tomb

Jerusalem

River Jordan

Capernaum

Gethsemane

Mount Tabor

Tabgha

Dominusflevit

Hebron

Nablus

Temple Mount

Einkarim

Holy Sepulchre

Nazareth

Tiberias

Galicantu

Jacobs Well

Paternoster

Viadolorosa

Up Hatherley Parish Council

A great deal of anxiety was sparked recently when advertisements appeared on Rightmove, marketing two fields between Chargrove Lane and Sunnyfield Lane as being ripe for housing development. News travels rapidly across social media platforms and it



has been necessary to inform worried residents that, for now, this is speculation and at present these fields are in the green belt. We live in anxious times, but the Parish Council will do its best to defend the green belt, as it is so important to our health and well – being.

It seems that much of the content of Facebook and Next Door, along with press and media, increases anxiety and I sometimes wonder if we would be better off without some of this “breaking news”.

Sometimes, the object of a headline is to provoke division and give the impression that everything is broken.

In our country and in our communities, the state of the roads, selfish parking, littering and fly tipping, long waits for health treatments, the rising cost of living, hate crimes, burglary and vandalism are all very real examples, but they have been long in the making. There is also a lot of good things happening in our community, but this seldom grabs the headlines. Pointing the finger of blame and saying “someone should do something about this” doesn’t get us very far.

World events, such as what President Trump has decided to do next and what is unfolding in the Middle East are examples of news that can provoke a feeling of powerlessness (or a rush to turn the TV off).

If we are powerless to change the big picture, maybe we should turn our attention to the things that we can do to improve the quality of life for our citizens. Face to face conversations, practical projects and less ranting from “keyboard warriors” would be on my prescription!

Sarah Bamford (Chair)

Citizens Advice provides an appointment only advice service on Thursday morning at the Up Hatherley Library.



**citizens
advice**

Please call 01452 527202 to arrange an appointment:

Free confidential advice on issues including:



**citizens
advice**

*Benefits * Employment
*Housing * Debt * Family * Consumer



The winners of the March Draw were

1st Prize = Sam Gilbert

2nd Prize = Karen Sargison

3rd Prize = Pauline Cratchley

The next Draw will be held on

12th April 2026

Gardening News



Oh, it must all settle down soon, mustn't it ? What a tiresome month March was, there was a reluctance to do anything for fear of being wrong footed by nature. It was clearly confusing for our plants too with all sorts popping out when the mood took them. I have to say that the early flowering ornamental cherries have been a delight. *Prunus Cerasifera* (also known as the Cherry Plum) have been amazing. We have *Cerasifera Nigra*, which boasts a dark leaf and is certainly to be recommended if you have a space. We did manage to squeeze in the first cutting of the lawn, only to highlight the damage of last year's drought, so the surface has been lightly scratched with a rake and a few handfuls of hardwearing grass seed have joined the fight. I will give it a month and then water on some weed and feed. Based on the experiences of the last few years, I will get on with some planting this month, just in case we end up with another scorching summer. It does help if roots are settled. Certainly, hardier bedding plants will be fine and I will hold off with Busy Lizzies, Geraniums and Begonias until May. This group are great dry weather performers and there will be plenty of choice. Begonias are likely to be big business with some really good varieties on offer. Summer bulbs can also be planted now and I will be setting out tuberous dahlias (which were wonderful last year). If you still want to direct sow some flowers then this month try a few Cosmos from seed. Old fashioned types like Sensation mix are pretty tough and can be scattered in borders. In the vegetable plot, most brassica plants can go in (everything from Cabbage to sprouts and cauliflower) and if its not done already, then you can still be planting seed potatoes. As the ground warms they will get under way quickly (and don't bother with chitting them). This month you can be sowing seed for the softer vegetables. marrows, courgettes and cucumbers can all be started in pots. Whilst they will germinate quickly resist the temptation to get them out until mid May.

And finally, as garden spaces shrink and enthusiasm for soft fruit seems to grow, I am delighted to report that a range of soft fruit for pots and small spaces is now available and I for one will be trying them. Look out for 'Lowberries'.

Happy Gardening

Chris Evans

Recipe for the Month

Salmon Pesto Puffs

- 1 packet of puff pastry
- 60 ml green pesto
- 4 boneless skinless salmon fillets
- Juice of one lemon
- 1 tomato
- A little milk

Preheat the oven to 200c gas mark 6

Roll out pastry and cut into 4, spread each piece with the pesto

Place salmon fillets on top

Season and drizzle each with lemon juice

Fold each corner in to resemble an envelope and top with a slice of tomato

Brush with the milk and place each salmon parcel onto a lightly greased baking tray

Place in the oven for 25 minutes until golden

CHURCH CENTRE HIRE



We are pleased to be able to offer the following availability for the regular hire of our Church Centre:

Mondays: from 09:00 – 16:00.

Wednesdays: from 09:00 - 16:00.

Thursdays: from 13:00 – 21:00.

Fridays: from 16:00 – 21:00.

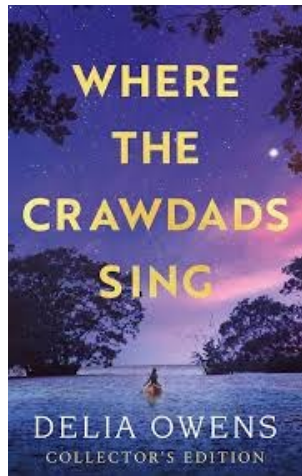
For full details of availability and features please contact Guy Mewha-Williams on 07576 659969.



Where the Crawdads Sing Delia Owens 2018

This was another book loaned to me by a friend – because she rightly thought I would love it – and it absolutely lived up to my expectations.

It's hard to categorise – but it's partly a coming-of-age book, but also a narrative that explores prejudice in 1950s North Carolina and a murder/mystery as well. Quite a combination!



The central character is a young girl Kya who is has to fend for herself in the marshlands of North Carolina, where the “marsh people” are looked down on. Her mother who was abused by her father has walked out, her brother has left and her alcoholic and abusive father is mostly not home and seldom any help. It is a tale of survival and resourcefulness, and Kya survives by staying close to nature, trading mussels and smoked fish, and through the kindness of locals Jumpin and his wife Mabel, who are also the subject of prejudice.

A local and celebrated youth Chase Andrews is found dead and suspicion falls on Kya, so the story is then not just about Kya's survival but also about justice for this remarkable girl. The tale is an emotional rollercoaster – but highly recommended.

Sarah Bamford

The Church Centre...



*... is the ideal venue for...
your children's party, work's conference,
friends get together & concert performance
or that extra special occasion ...*

*Wedding breakfast &
Anniversary celebration*

*With fully equipped kitchen,
tables & chairs, disabled access
& outside space.*

*Room for Bouncy Castles, DJs
& Children's Entertainers.*

Free car parking

*For further details telephone
07576 659969*

What's On at our Church Centre

Mondays: 18:00-19:00 Balance of Life Pilates.

Tuesdays: 09:30-11:30 Child Minders
Pre-School Group

13:30-16:00 Strength & Balance

Wednesdays: 16:15-21:00 Slimming World

Thursdays: 09:30-12:30 Jo Jingles Play Group

Fridays: 09:30-10:30 Balance of Life Pilates.

For further details of all these activities please see
the noticeboards in the Centre lobby.



BABY CLASS RE-OPENING!



**Saints Philip and James
Church Centre,
Cold Pool Lane,
Up Hatherley**

**Thursdays
at 11:45am**



Click on the link in the post to book or
contact Gill for more information at
gillb_jojingles@hotmail.com
www.jojingles.com/centralglos

MAINTENANCE OF BURIAL & INTERMENT PLOTS

What is permitted:

Permanent stone vases are only those authorized and have permission granted, and only fresh flowers (out of their wrappings), or cuttings from shrubs and bushes, may be placed in them.

Grassed interment plots are enclosed by a band of paving. Vases should be placed on this and not on the grass, both to respect other plots and to facilitate the maintenance of the churchyard.

Small spring bulbs may be planted (from **September to October**), under the grass of a grave with minimal disturbance to the turf.

Poppies (or small wooden remembrance crosses) at the time of Remembrance Sunday. To be removed by **30th November**.

Christmas wreaths of natural foliage are welcome from mid-December. To be removed by **31st January**.

What is not permitted:

No artificial flowers of any kind. The only exception to this is for poppies on Remembrance Sunday.

No trees, shrubs, or roses are allowed to be planted.

No individual gardens are permitted.

Items not allowed because they are dangerous, interfere with grass cutting, will get damaged or are out of keeping with the churchyard, include such items as:

glass or other breakable or sharp items; chippings or gravel; pictures, portraits or photographs; statues or ornaments; lights (candles, solar or battery); plastic bowls, birdbaths; kerbs, railings or chains; windmills, wind-chimes, cards, animal figures, angels, etc.

The PCC retains the right to remove anything from the churchyard which does not comply with these or other regulations.