





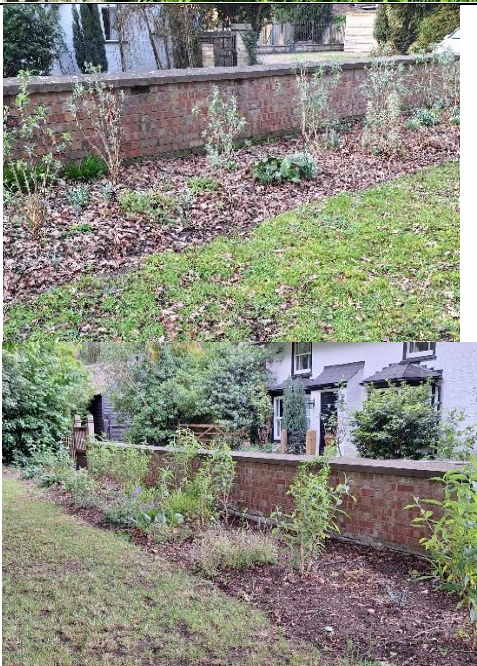







# St Mary's Church Houghton Land management plan 2026


Grassland and wildflower areas	Illustration	Description	Management Summary	Planting Ideas and comments
<p><b>Summer flower area</b></p> <p>(Long grass in summer)</p>		<p>St Mary's Centre, alongside wall bordering school</p>		
<p><b>Short Grass</b></p>		<p>Area around church, once snowdrops and primulas finished flowering</p>		
<p><b>Uncut grass area</b></p>		<p>St Mary's Centre, between railings and row of upstanding gravestones</p>	<p>Leave grass indefinitely, without mowing at any time</p>	<p>Never cut; to act as cover for small mammals, amphibians, overwintering butterflies</p>

<p><b>Spring flower area</b></p> <p><b>Medium grass</b></p>			<p>Triangular area under trees to south of church, either side of diagonal footpath.</p>	<p>To be kept short once the spring flowering bulbs have finished</p>	<p>Contains snowdrops, primroses, fritillary</p>
<p><b>Efforts to develop wildflowers and reduce coarse grasses</b></p>			<p>Reduce grass by collecting all mown grass</p>	<p>All mown grass to be collected</p>	
<p><b>Nettle patch</b> in a sunny position.</p>			<p>Stinging nettles are great wildlife attractors: caterpillars of the small tortoiseshell and peacock butterflies use them as foodplants; ladybirds feast on the aphids that shelter among them; and seed-eating birds enjoy their autumn spoils.</p>	<p>Various patches in churchyard alongside north path, and St Marys Centre along north wall boundary with school</p>	

<p><b>No use of chemicals or herbicides</b></p>		<p>Routine use of chemicals harms birds, earthworms, hedgehogs, frogs, plants and other wildlife</p>	<p>Use of chemicals and herbicides will be restricted, using natural means</p>	
<p><b>Paths through grassland</b></p>				
<p><b>Mature ivy</b></p> <p>Leave wherever possible, in sunny areas</p>		<p>Both varieties of Ivy – Common and Atlantic can be found in various areas in the St Mary's Centre churchyard</p>		
<p><b>Area of herbs and seed bearing plants, left over winter</b></p>		<p>Border to west of churchyard, along Chapel Street, contains buddleia</p>		

<p><b>Trees</b></p>			<p>Yew and lime trees within churchyard</p>		
<p><b>Hedging and shrubs</b></p>			<p>Holly bushes along south path</p>		
<p><b>Water</b></p>					

<p><b>Log or brushwood pile</b></p>			<p>Brushwood pile developing, along south side path</p>		
<p><b>Variety of habitats</b></p>					
<p><b>Bird boxes (or nesting sites) bat boxes (or bats using building), insect hotels, badger entrances, bees in stone work</b></p>			<p>Bird boxes in various trees; bug hotel along south side path;</p>		
<p><b>Sustainability</b></p> <p>Water butts or similar in use (No plastic flowers)</p>			<p>Water butts attached to downpipe of church</p>		

<b>Management, communication and public involvement</b>				
<b>Recording and Surveys</b>				
<b>Sketch plan of churchyard</b>  (Requirement for all levels of Award)				
<b>Grass snakes Shelter</b>				

## Flowers and plants noted by month

### January

- Snowdrops

### February

- Daffodils

### March

- Primroses
- Primulas
- Fritillary
- Grape hyacinth
- Daffodils

### April

- Bluebells
- Arum lily (maculatum)
- Meadow sweet
- Ground ivy
- Iris (cultivated)
- Cow parsley
- Forget-me-nots

### May

- Red clover (StMC)
- Red campion (StMC)
- Daisies
- Oxe-eye daisies
- Green alkanet (StMC)
- Cow parsley

- Bellflowers

## June

- Red clover (StMC)
- Red campion (StMC)
- Daisies
- Oxe-eye daisies
- Cow parsley
- Bellflowers

## July

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## August

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## September

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## October

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## November

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## December

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