

Dear John

We've recently set up a Benefice Environment group in Witney Parish covering the churches of St. Mary the Virgin (on Church Green), St. John the Baptist in Curbridge, St. John the Evangelist in Hailey, Holy Trinity, Witney and St. Kenelm's, Minster Lovell. One of our aims is to work towards Eco Church status and at St. Mary's this would include some consideration of the ecological value and potential of the churchyard. As I understand it the St. Mary's churchyard is closed and is maintained by the Town Council.

Being fairly new to the church I'm not sure what churchyard management is undertaken by the Town Council at the moment. There may possibly be some aspects of it which could be reduced or modified to enhance the churchyard's ecological value.

I'm thinking that the best way forward would be for me to meet with you or one of your staff on site to discuss the present management and formulate a programme of actions to improve the ecological status of the churchyard. Would this be convenient for you? I'm no longer employed full time and am self employed as an ecological consultant so my time is fairly flexible.

I look forward to hearing from you.