

Cradley Churchyard Trees

Progress report by Tony Copp of 30 November 2017 v2

Thursday 30th November 2017, the Churchyard committee (Anne F, Tony C, apologies from Mike H) met with the Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC) (Mr Stephen Challenger, the Venerable Paddy Benson, Rev Chris Walker, Mr Andrew Pike, Rev Dennis Vickers) in the Churchyard to see our tree plan for themselves.

The DAC were encouragingly 'on side' for our aims and objectives. We are optimistic that Paddy, as Archdeacon, can give permissions for work to go ahead on trees 7, 9, 12a and 6 this winter (note that wire damaged tree 7 has significant lean and the Archdeacon may be able to approve removal of the overhanging trunk). The relevant Hereford Council planning application P173685/J has a target date for decision of 6 Dec 17.

The concept of a Glastonberry Thorn by Rectory Lane on the South wall was mentioned but they liked the existing open aspect of the 'village green'. The new planting of the east boundary hedge by our neighbour was appreciated.

They were impressed by the obvious support by volunteers from the village in the Churchyard, including mowing.

A recent [brown patch](#) of die-back in cypress 4b was noted, this could be [fungal](#), aphid or scale insect but the affected area is too high to inspect. We would not wish this to spread to the 'pine cypress' nearby.

They informally agreed with our default plan to remove the remains of Holly #1 that was in English Yew D.

DAC recommended that a professional should have oversight and direction for any volunteer work done to the trees.

Attention was drawn to the Memorial Ashes area – the general reaction was that it should be levelled but the grass and banking retained. A low small box hedge was suggested if a surrounding is felt necessary, but there is, apparently, box blight nearby. We should consider a separate area, when this area is full, perhaps using ground recovered by felling trees.

They suggested enhancing the Meadow plan, as supported by the AONB, with log seats at the top of the bank.

I mentioned that CFGA at <http://www.caringforgodsacre.org.uk/index.php/our-projects2/the-beautiful-burial-ground/about-the-beautiful-burial-ground-project.html> have a 4-year funded project running from January 2018 and I propose to send an application form. Our Churchwarden Anne has been keen to survey flora and fauna before and during our work plan and a suggestion was also made to take photographs of the Churchyard from the tower every 6 months.

The enhanced map (below) shows trees that may only require Archdeacon approval in [purple](#) and full Faculty permission in [red](#). The next meeting of the DAC to progress the Faculty is in January.

