

Seventh station: Opposite the west window of the church.



Not much will grow in the dense shade of a yew, but some cyclamen have been donated and also aconites. We try to encourage these. Everywhere you see the handiwork of people who come to tend the graves, for whom there is sympathy; some come long distances and perhaps only seldom, while others are local residents and are here frequently. The churchyard working-parties adopt old graves that are not maintained, planting and keeping them tidy. Pause to thank God for families and friends present and past. Though we do not see them we know that they are held in your loving hands. Father, you are here in those resting for a while: we give them back to you, as they have come from you.

Eighth station: North side of the church.



Here is a fine golden Irish Yew, a young cherry and a purple plum. Some grass areas are 'set-aside', and so not regularly mown so that plants can self-seed. The wildflowers are an important part of the churchyard; they are loved and accepted for their own beauty and the habitat they provide for the wildlife - butterflies, birds and insects. Wild flowers flourish in poor soil, so this is a carpet in Spring of primroses and celandines. Several graves, no longer tended, have become established with varieties such as white daisies and scabious. Do stop to feel a plant's leaf and sniff the scent; many are aromatic or fragrant. Think, perhaps, of your own habits of growing, whether strong or tentative, and know that all is seen, all is taken into account, and nothing is wasted.

Ninth station: From the corner by the school buildings



We give thanks for the new generations of children, and the joy they bring to our families. On weekdays there is plenty of noise and laughter as they play in the open air. Every Tuesday there is a Pram service for Parents and Toddlers which is a joyful opportunity for the children to understand Bible stories and feel at home here. Thank you, Father, for our children and all that you give us through them. We remember how Jesus loved the children. As we walk around the churchyard we are surrounded by signs of life and renewal and are reminded that You are in all of Creation, the birds, the insects, the rabbits, moles and mice - even the Muntjac deer which eat flowers on the graves, for this is the circle of life.

Tenth station. We have come around to The entrance of the Church.



Give thanks for Tim, the vicar of this church and all others here with church leadership responsibilities. Give thanks for the communion of believers both here and in all churches. The War Memorial is here, with Christ on the Cross, present with us in all moments of our life. Thank God for this greatest gift of all, His Son.

A final prayer: Father we know that you are our Creator. We thank you for this place, this time, this moment. We listen for birdsong, the wind in the trees, distant sounds of traffic. We hear you, we see you in all the continuous growing around us, the cycles of birth and death. Teach us to be stewards of your Creation, and deeply aware of you in each step and breath we take. May the Grace of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be with us all, evermore. Amen

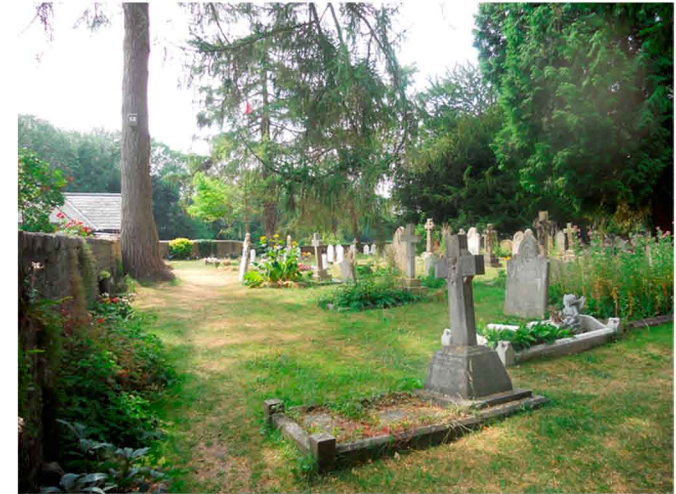
Holy Trinity Church, Headington Quarry

A Meditative Walk Around The Churchyard

Devised and written by Nell Slocock

You are invited to take this leaflet with you around our churchyard and to stop at each "station" mentioned in order to reflect on both the beauty and the sadness contained here, as well as on the beauty and the sadness in our own lives. We offer it all to the God who both rejoices with us and brings us healing. The pictures show the views from each station.

We start our reflective tour of the churchyard at the
First Station: The Gate to Trinity Road.



As you walk around 'God's Acre', look around and notice the detail and the beauty here. You may know the churchyard well, or it may be new to you. One could say that this is where God, his people and Nature meet; the more you look, the more memorials you will see, and they are cherished in different ways with fresh flowers or planted ones. Then there are the general plantings, the avenue of roses, the borders either side of the War Memorial and the trees. These vary from the mature to the recently planted. The 3 yews may date to when the church was built in 1848/9. The area was roughly square, divided by paths. Larches were placed just inside the wall. So take a moment to thank God for His great blessings in giving us this beautiful country 'patch' so close to the city of Oxford. If you wish to you can follow your breathing as you walk, saying silently 'Our' to the in-breath and 'Father' to the out-breath.