

Rewilding parts of St Marys Churchyard

St Marys is a quintessential country church in the centre of the village of Rattery in South Devon.

The present building is believed to date back to the Norman period, although there has been a place of worship on the site for almost a thousand years.



The churchyard extends to just over an acre. It is roughly square. It is divided into two halves. The top half which surrounds the church is fairly flat. The lower half is a steep hill which falls away from the church building.

Almost all of it is filled with grave stones.

However, there are two small open areas where we have suspended grass cutting completely and other areas where it will be cut less often over the summer in order to allow a mix of habitats. Already we are seeing many wild plants and

flowers starting to appear such as Sow thistle, Hawkbit, Docks, Primrose and Oxide Daisy.

Later in the year we will carry out a baseline biodiversity audit. The idea is to strike a balance between keeping the churchyard looking tidy and well cared for, whilst providing the best conditions to encourage wild plants and animals.

