St Michael's Churchyard – frequently asked questions.

What are you doing about diversity and sustainability?
We have a Plan. In support of the Parish Council biodiversity initiatives, we have been investigating ways to manage the churchyard more sustainably, putting together an excellent team who are focused on reshaping the churchyard be an exemplar, balancing biodiversity, with ensuring the area can continue to be a welcoming place for quiet reflection and enjoyment.

The main proposal is for a different mowing regime for designated areas of short, medium or long grass, to encourage the widest diversity of wildflowers and to provide food for the greatest diversity of birds and mammals while still taking good care of burial / memorial areas. (The plans, which continue to evolve, have been available for several months to view - in the church, Old School and online - and we have held engagement consultations with the wider community.) Please take a look at the map and the plans at the back of the church or on the website for more details.

Giving time is another opportunity.
Managing the churchyard is a community activity. We are all volunteers - the Churchwardens, PCC members, villagers - and we would very much welcome your help. If you can spare an hour or so a month on a regular basis, we would love to have you along. Please contact either Helen or James.

Why is grass cutting so expensive?
The nature of graves (some well-tended, some not) is that they are a mixture of grassed-over, flat stones and monuments, covered with 'plant pots' etc and surrounded by grass which makes cutting very fiddly. Some plaques are raised above the ground level, meaning that mowers cannot cut over them! So, this means the task takes much longer than merely cutting a square of grass!

I don't go to church.
Whether or not you are a regular Churchgoer (and a number of existing friends and contributors are not), we are sure we all value St Michael's for Weddings, Funerals, Christenings, Christmas or Easter or just the pleasure of having such a beautiful medieval building in the middle of our village. None of us want to see our village heritage looking neglected. In fact, there are many people who visit St Michael's and the churchyard for quiet contemplation, knowing it is the perfect space to sit and think!

What is the best way of making my payment?
There are a number of methods but the best is to use the Parish Giving Scheme. This is a simple Direct Debit scheme, which has the advantage that Gift Aid (tax relief) is automatically received 10 days later, rather than waiting

18 months. The financial benefit is that for every £10, the government adds £2.50. See information on attached bookmark. www.waystogive.org.uk/giving