

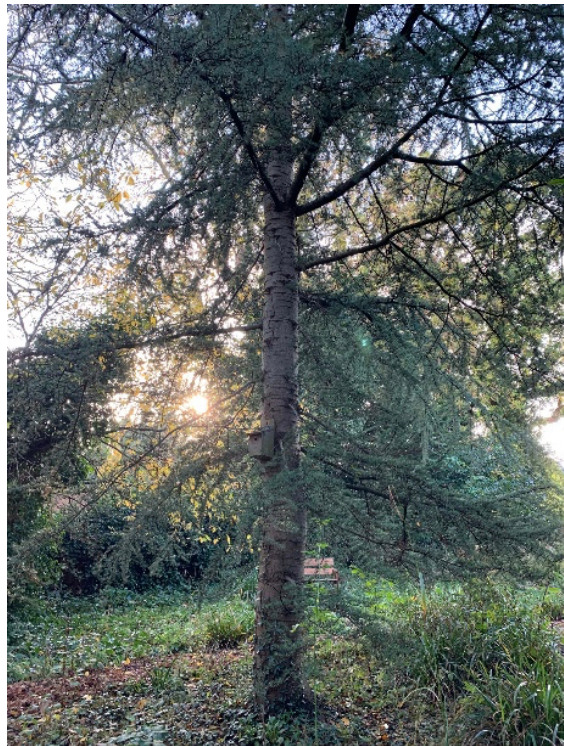
St Mary's Parish Church Trees - A Guide

Those who trust in the Lord are like a tree planted by water, that sends out its roots by the stream, and does not fear when heat comes, for its leaves remain green, and is not anxious in the year of drought, for it does not cease to bear fruit

Jeremiah 17:8



1. Beech



2. Cedar of Lebanon (Eco Garden)

(The numbers correspond with those on the Tree Map)

1. Beech: This magnificent, ancient and protected beech tree (above left) has a trunk of large girth, clad in smooth, grey bark. It has spreading roots above the soil and its fine foliage provides dense shade, with a layer of beechmast on the ground. It used to be one of a pair, but its nearby companion sadly had to be cut down some years ago. The deep green leaves of summer turn to fiery orange and warm muddy brown in Autumn, and are a splendid sight, particularly when they catch the sun.

2. Cedar of Lebanon: The Cedar of Lebanon was planted in the Eco Garden on 25th April 1993, to mark the 125th Anniversary of the Consecration of St Mary's Church, by Barbara Barker, wife of former vicar, Roy Barker. This was when Nigel Walker was vicar (see page 4). Unfortunately, the top of the tree was taken off in a recent storm, so it will now grow further out sideways than previously. Look out for the fine needles arranged in tufts and for the solid, purple-brown cones, which are broad topped and with thin scales, closely pressed together. These trees do not produce cones until they are from 25 to 30 years old.



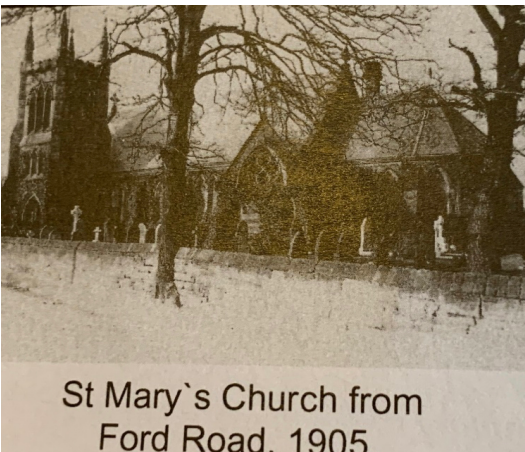
3. Turkey Oak
(in wall, Ford Road)



4. Mountain Ash/Rowan

3. Turkey Oak: This unusual oak tree, with straighter growth than the English Oak, is pyramidal in shape and has thick, greyish bark. The stalkless acorn-cups are covered with mossy scales. The leaves are narrower and more angularly toothed than those of the English Oak. The Turkey Oak (above left) near to the gate to the School House, is growing in the wall along Ford Road. At various times, this section of wall has had to be rebuilt, as the growing trunk disturbed the wall. The tree today is effectively supporting the wall, as the stones are being covered by the bark enclosing them (also see below).

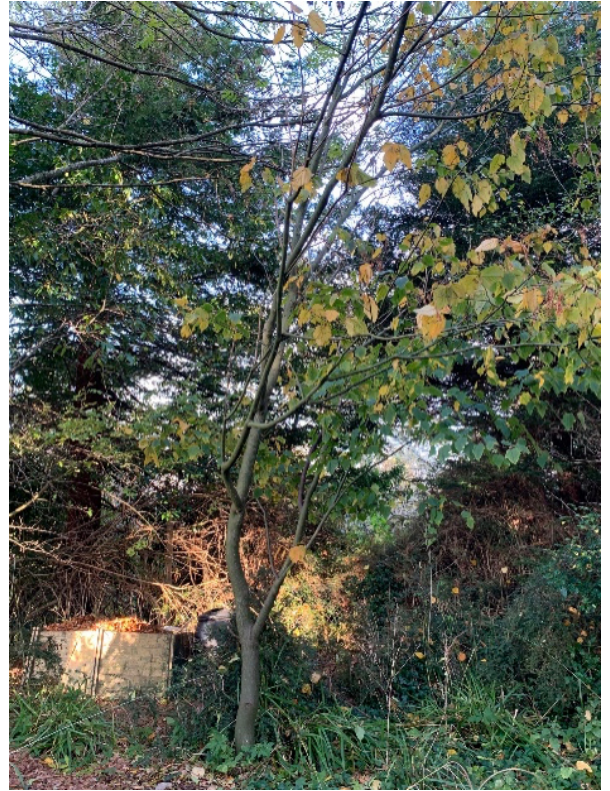
4. Mountain Ash (also known as Rowan): These three delicate trees along the wall to the church glass porch door have silvery grey bark, long feathery leaves with leaflets and creamy white flowers in May. The fruit, which takes the form of berries, is yellow in late July, suddenly orange then scarlet within a few days in early August and soon attacked by Thrushes, Blackbirds and Starlings, who can rapidly strip Rowan trees of them.



The photo left shows the young Turkey Oak (3) growing in the wall.
It is thus more than 115 years old!



5. Ash (Eco Garden)



6. Snake Bark Maple (Eco Garden)

5. Ash: The Ash (above, left) has very smooth, dark grey bark, dark squat buds, leaves with leaflets and creamy-white fragrant flowers in late May. It bears prominent bunches of long Ash keys, which are green until just before leaf fall, then brown.

6. Snake Bark Maple: This unusual tree in the Eco Garden was grown from a sapling by Bob Pullan. It has green bark resembling snake-skin and three lobed leaves with the central lobe broadly triangular, turning yellow and orange in the Autumn. It bears yellow flowers in mid- April, as the leaves unfold and small winged fruits.



7. Tulip Tree (outside new building)

7. Tulip Tree: A pair of young trees (left) was recently planted in front of the New Parish Building. They have saddle shaped four lobed leaves, which are green in summer, turning bright gold in Autumn. The flowers are produced in June and July and are tulip-shaped, which gives the tree its name. When picked and placed in a flat bowl, the flowers look just like small water-lilies.

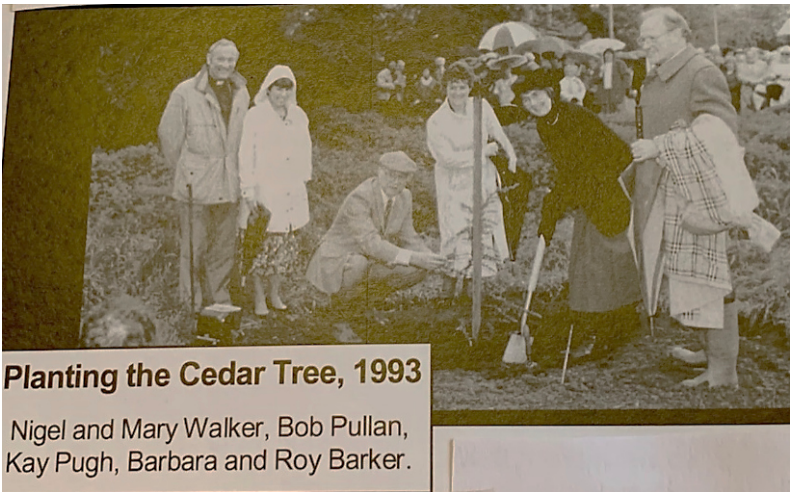


5. Ash (left)
8. Sycamore (right)



9. Lime (left)
5. Ash (middle)
3. Turkey Oak (right)

8. Sycamore: The Sycamore has dark grey or pinkish brown cracked bark and the leaves are heart shaped and cut into five lobes, so that they may be described as palmate. The black patches frequently seen on Sycamore leaves are the work of a small fungus. Sycamore flowers are greenish yellow and the winged “key” fruits are scimitar shaped and red brown in colour. These are produced freely after the tree is about twenty years old.



Planting the Cedar Tree, 1993
Nigel and Mary Walker, Bob Pullan, Kay Pugh, Barbara and Roy Barker.

Planting of Cedar of Lebanon (2, page 1)

9. Lime: This lime tree (left) by the west window of the church has been heavily pollarded, so that it does not bear many flowers or fruit. The bark is dull grey and finely fissured and the tree is burred and densely sprout-infested, especially at the base. The leaves are broad and ovate, green in the summer and turning bright yellow, then brown in the Autumn.

Jane and Steve Hill and grandson Oliver put all the information together on our local church trees during lockdown 2020. Thanks to them for giving us more ways to enjoy being outdoors in God's amazing creation.