

St Marys Churchyard

Originally the churchyard surrounding St Mary's just had grass, gravestones and tarmac areas. It was decided, by some of our keen gardeners associated with the church, that they wanted to beautify the west wall, which at that time was just concrete and tarmac. The menfolk helped to clear the area and planting began, this has been maintained ever since.



Then more plants were donated by members and another area by the south door was given a facelift and the idea of making changes began. The younger members of the church were worried that visitors were cutting across the area designated for graves and therefore wearing a path across the area which began to look unsightly, plus the north door which is our main one for entrance and exit needed to be beautified too, so areas were designated for planting.

Last year, 2012, we were invited to be part of the Village in Bloom project, and it was also our Flower Festival year too, so it was decided to look at the pathways leading to church and see if anything could be done to make these more attractive and welcoming. Planting took place in red white and blue because the festival was about the Queen's Jubilee and the Olympics.



Members of the church strive to maintain the areas around the churchyard in a manner appropriate to the place, so those visiting graves will realise we love and care about their family and friends too. Within the churchyard are some war graves and these are part of our celebration on Remembrance Sunday, plus there are other well-known people buried in the graveyard, some of whom are part of Birmingham's history.

The church's gardeners aim to keep the surrounding area as welcoming as possible, although the grass cutting is undertaken by the local council, because we are a Parish Church and the land is within their remit. Many people visit the church as the West Window is designed by Edward Burne-Jones and is included in books about his work, many of whom have commented on how attractive the churchyard is looking. It is thanks to a dedicated team who work unselfishly without reward to proclaim the beauty of God's world for all to see.