

Dear James

I was amazed at the difference to the look of the churchyard with the removal of the four lime trees. Not much more than scrubby trunks recently they really stopped the eye from seeing the vista.

I love it.

However I have already been asked when the new trees are going to be planted, and will they be limes??

I'm sure the Town Council has ideas on that question but I'll give you my thoughts anyway.

Looking critically at the space – rather than having four potentially large trees at equal distances from each other - I was thinking : opposite the East Window - a couple of slender trees, set a bit back from the “wall”, possibly Silver Birch planted near each other. These would provide movement and also be insect and bird friendly. Blue tits in particular love Silver Birch.

On the other side of the gateway towards the Chemist could be one or two more trees, maybe Wild Cherry or Field Maple?

I have long wanted to have more wildlife in the area around the church, mowed tight where necessary but longer and with daisies, knapweed, campion and buttercups etc to add interest. Steph did a wonderful job of planting snowdrops several years ago and there are primroses and violets but nothing with summer flowers.

The Town Council has probably already thought and even ordered and begun the Faculty process for new trees but I thought I'd add my ideas if it isn't too late.

Happy Christmas to you all