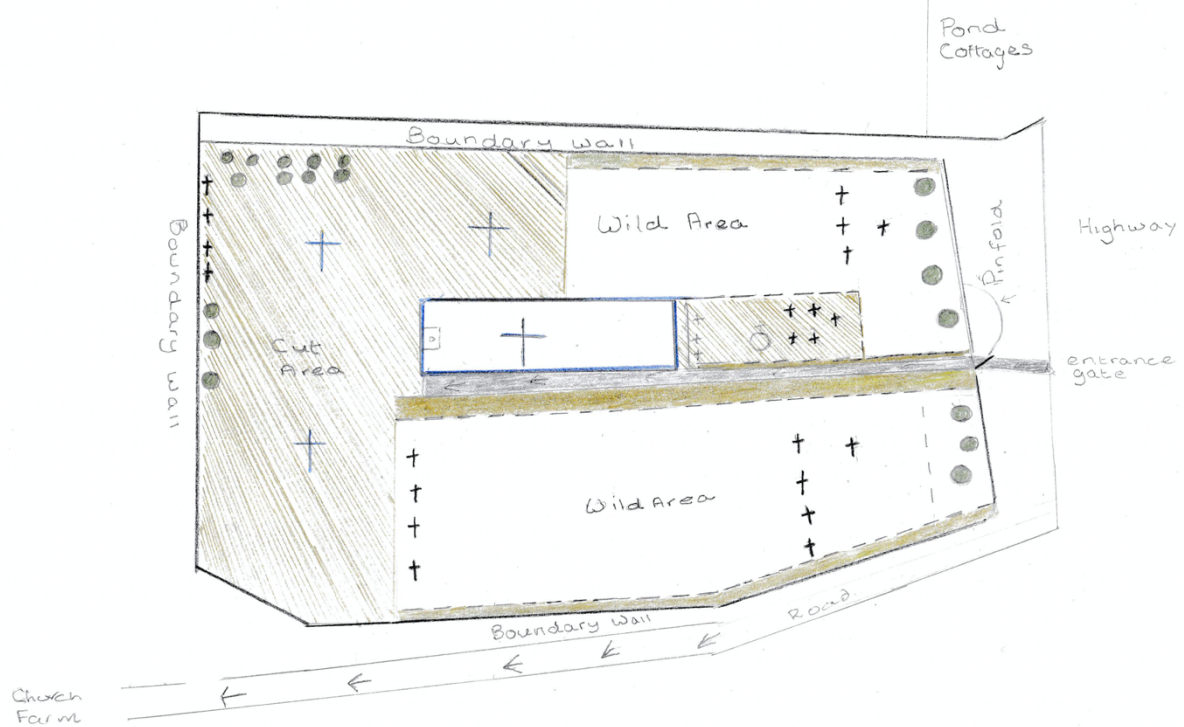


## Great Edstone: The Church of St Michael and All Angels'

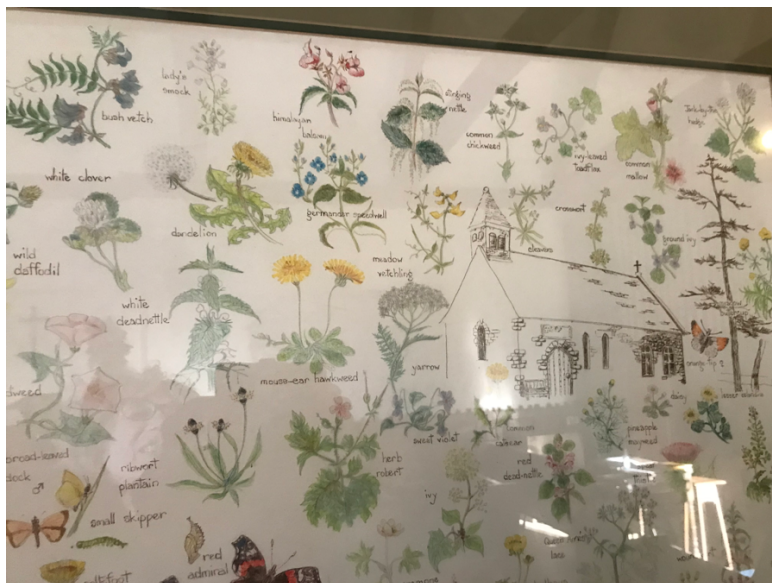


In line with many other expenses, the cost of maintain the grounds of our small medieval churchyard here in Great Edstone have risen significantly.

In 2024 we have decided that Great Edstone Church will follow the Church of England's special programme related to 'Caring for Churchyards'.

The programme is called 'Caring for God's Acre' and involves the encouragement of wildflowers in parts of the churchyard whilst maintaining other areas with the grass cut. We are very fortunate at Great Edstone to have a visual record of the flowers that have existed in the churchyard in the past and that may lie dormant, waiting to spring into life again if the ground is managed wisely.

The picture below is a photograph of a botanical painting by the late Tessa Watson which provides a historical record of the wildflowers that existed in Great Edstone churchyard in the 1990s. It is hoped that with careful management these may be revived for the enjoyment of everyone.



The first stage in this churchyard management process involves the selective cutting of the grass in parts of the churchyard whilst allowing it to grow in other areas. This will provide walkways and access to graves whilst maintaining the most attractive areas for wildflowers.

We hope that this programme will help maintain and enhance our attractive churchyard.

In view of the fact that the churchyard is a valuable public space, the purpose of my letter is to ask whether some Local Authority financial or practical assistance may be made available towards the grass cutting required to help keep this beautiful small churchyard accessible and connected to our community.