

# Herb Robert



Latin name: *Geranium robertianum*

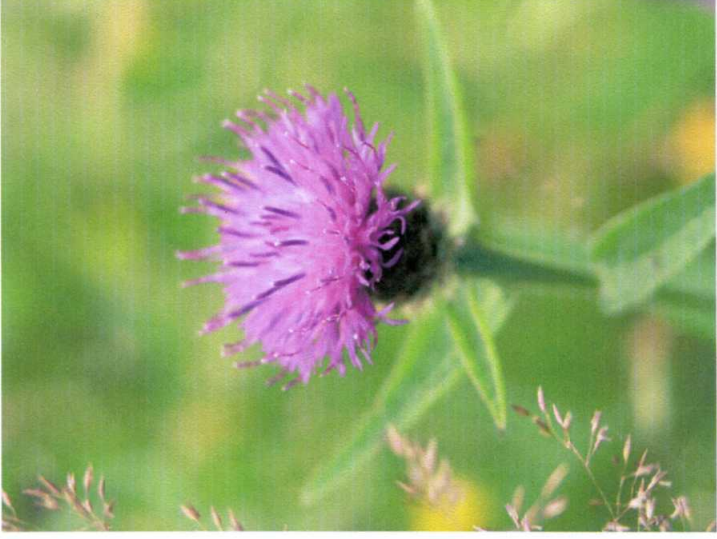
Flowers: May – September

Height: 10–50cm (4–20 ins)

Where: Shady places around edge of churchyard.

This plant will grow taller if it is competing with other plants. It is just like the hardy geraniums found in gardens, but the pink flowers are much smaller. The Robert in its name may be a corruption of the Latin *ruber* which means red.

# Common Knapweed



Latin name: *Centaurea nigra*

Flowers: June – September

Height: 30–60cm (12–24 ins)

Where: almost anywhere!

A purple pink relative of the cornflower, knapweeds are vigorous self seeders that will quite quickly crowd out anything else

# Creeping thistle



Latin name: *Cirsium arvense*

Flowers: July – September

Height: 30–150cm (12–60 ins)

Where: Almost anywhere.

Butterflies love thistles, so if we can we leave them to flower.



# Arum



Latin name: *Arum maculatum*

Other names: Lords and ladies, cuckoo pint

Flowers: April – May

Height: 30–45cm (12–18 ins)

Where: Around edge of churchyard.

The spotty leaves of the arum are easy to spot and they are quickly followed by the spear like flower which dies back to reveal the head of bright red berries. The roots of arum are very starchy and were used in Elizabethan times to stiffen the ruff collars which were fashionable then. The berries are very poisonous and eating them can be fatal to children.

# Honesty



Latin name: *Lunaria annua* or *rediviva* (annual or perennial respectively)

Flowers: April – July

Height: Up to 60cm (20 ins)

Where: sunny places around edge of churchyard.

The annual and perennial versions of honesty are hard to differentiate, the biggest difference is that annual honesty has rough, hairy leaves which have no leaf stalks at the top of the plant. The papery flat seed pods make useful additions to dried flower arrangements.



# Hedge woundwort



Latin name: *Stachys sylvatica*

Flowers: July – August

Height: 30–100cm (12–40 ins)

Where: Any shady spot around the churchyard.

A close relative of betony (*stachys officinalis*), this plant was used to help wounds to heal (hence the name) and modern tests show that it does contain antiseptic properties.



# Holly

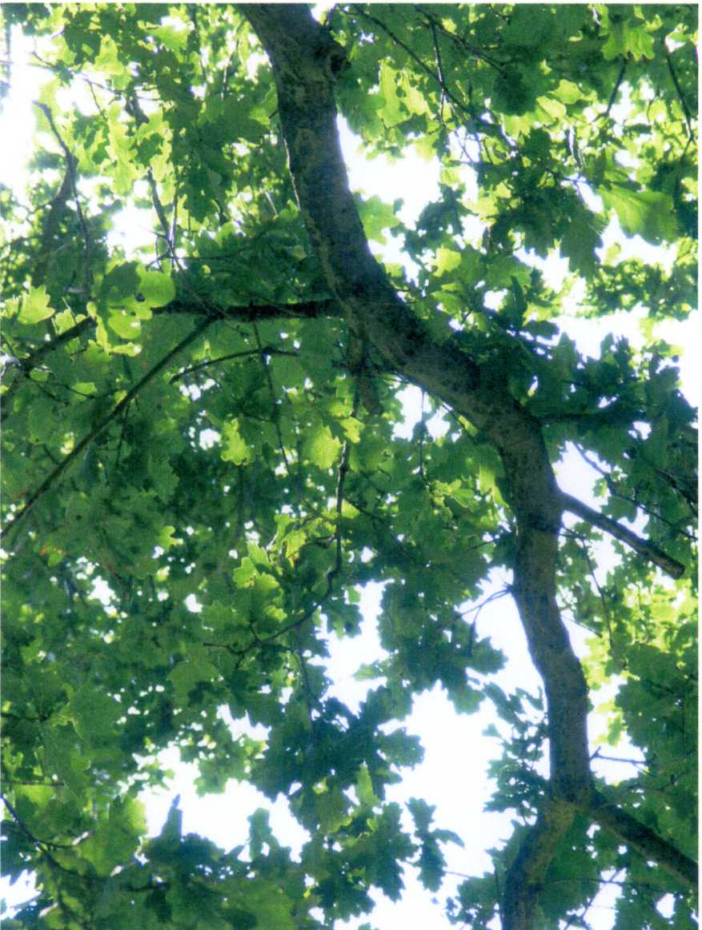


Latin name: *Ilex aquifolium*

As well as holly in several of our boundary hedges we have recently 'liberated' 2 rather nice little trees in our clearance of the western boundary. Long a symbol of Christmas, holly is also associated with everlasting life because of its evergreen leaves and long lasting berries. This association may explain the superstition that it was unlucky to fell a holly tree – but perhaps that was more to do with how prickly and uncomfortable it is to deal with the felled tree!



# Oaks



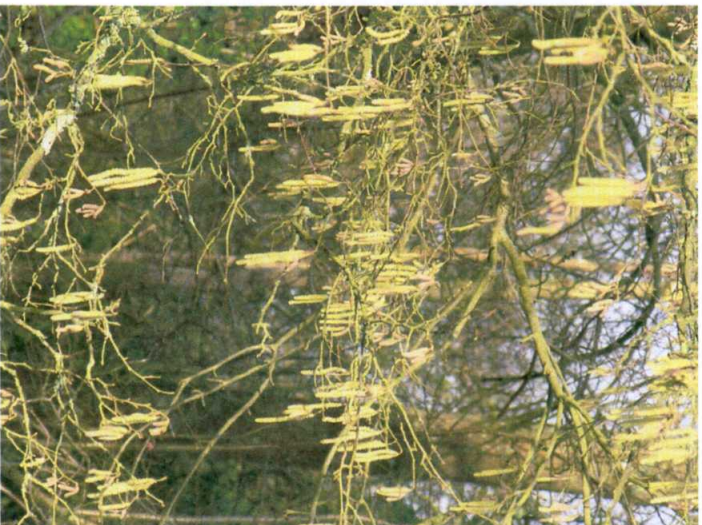
Latin name: *Quercus robur*

We have several beautiful oak trees on the edges of the churchyard. Long regarded as a sacred tree, the name *robur* means sturdy. Oak has been the foremost timber for construction for centuries and with age it becomes as hard as iron – our tower is constructed of oak as is the framing of the Priest House and the internal beams of the church roof.

Acorns were once of prime importance for pig food and the oak tree supports more insect species than any other tree.



# Hazel



Latin name: *Corylus avellana*

Present around the boundaries of the churchyard especially to the southwest this useful shrub has been used for centuries both as a source of food and building materials. The woodland to the southwest has been coppiced in the past and probably provided the occupants of the Priest House with wood for their fires and possibly a source of income if they could make and sell hazel hurdles.

# Cedar of Lebanon



Latin name: *Cedrus Libani*

We have 2 of these magnificent trees in the churchyard. Sadly the one to the east of the church has been severely affected by an oil leak some years ago. The tree to the west, however is a lovely tree which now towers over the church. Both trees are near their maximum height of 120ft or so and were planted in 1856.

Cedar is sweetly scented and resistant to insects, so the wood is often used to line drawers to help deter moths. A preservative oil from the tree was used in the embalming process by the ancient Egyptians.



# Goldilocks Buttercup



Latin name: *Ranunculus auricomus*

Flowers: April – May

Height: 15–25cm (6–10 ins)

Where: any sunny spot in the longer grass areas.

This lesser known (but still common) member of the buttercup family looks like goose grass with a rather tatty buttercup flower. The flowers rarely form fully and often have petals missing making it look as if they are past their prime.

# Common Chickweed



Latin name: *Stellaria Media*

Flowers: March onwards

Height: 5-36cm (2-14 ins)

Where: potentially anywhere, but there is a large patch under the yew tree beside the path.

The botanical name, *stellaria*, means little star and the small white flowers are like stars in amongst the green. It is related to Greater stitchwort. Although apparently 10 petals, the flowers actually have five petals which are deeply divided. As its name suggests, it is a favourite food for chickens, but the leaves also make a tasty addition to salads for humans!