

Goat Willow



Latin name: *Salix caprea*

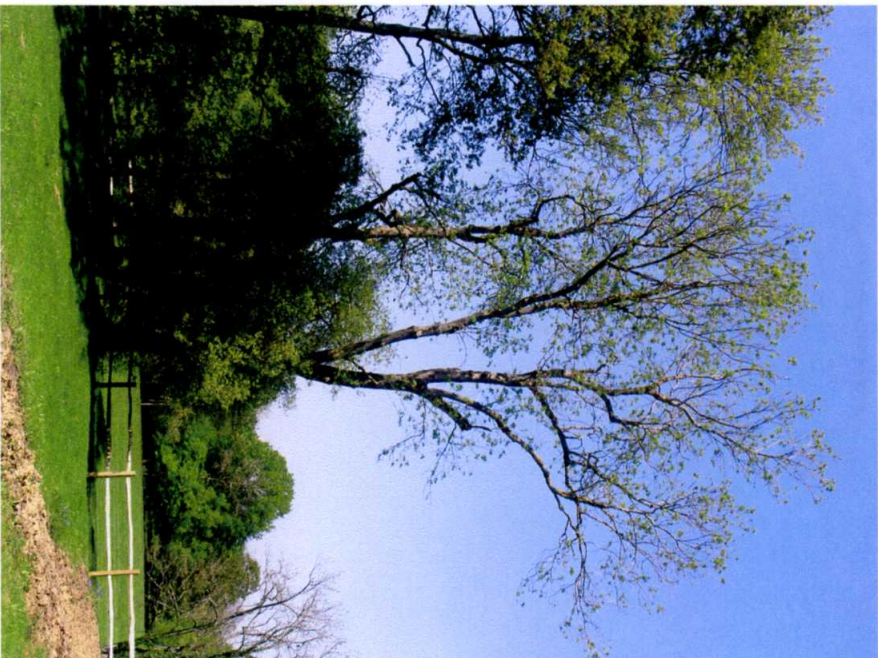
Height: 15m (50ft)

Where: Beside the path into the new churchyard and by the stream at the bottom.

The male tree provides us with the familiar golden catkins in spring. The tree by the path is a female and the flowers are less conspicuous at first, but have a smooth silky surface as they open giving rise to the nickname of pussy willow. The willow family are a primary source of salicylic acid (aspirin) and for centuries the bark has been used to treat fever and rheumatic conditions.

The willow family are useful trees which for centuries have provided withys (sticks) for fencing and basket making and the Cricket Bat Willow (*salix alba v. caerulea*) is used to make – cricket bats!

Ash



Latin name: *Fraxinus excelsior*

Height: 40m (130ft)

Where: Particularly on the northern edge of the churchyard

Ash was a sacred tree to the Scandinavians and in Norse mythology, Odin, carved the first man from the wood of the ash tree. Ash was the *Tree of the World* whose roots reached to the depths of hell and whose branches touched the heavens. Superstition, maybe, but the wood of the ash is strong and pliable and much in demand for a wide variety of products such as, oars, handles for tool, tennis racquets, hockey sticks and skis.

Pendulous sedge



Latin name: *Carex pendula*

Height: 90-140cm (36-54 ins)

Where: Behind the Priest House

A distinctive and handsome plant often found in shady and damp places. The sword like leaves start to droop over as they mature and the flower spikes which hang gracefully down resemble large red catkins when mature.

