

# St Mary's Churchyard Heritage Trail

Follow the route around the churchyard beginning by the main gate. Keep to the paths and follow the direction arrows. The walk will take about half an hour.

1. St Mary's Church is open to the public on the first Sundays in June, July, August and September from 2.30-5pm. Turn left and follow the path until it forks to the right. The tree on the right is a yew, the traditional tree of English churchyards. In its shade are naturalised foxgloves.
2. The Seymour Almshouses, built 1686 and 1733. Follow the path in front of the Almshouses, keeping the yew tree on your right. At the next junction turn sharply left until you see the grave of George Gosden on your left.
3. Grave of George Gosden, died 1844 aged 91, famous huntsman and Yeoman Pricker to George III. Look for the war graves in the corner of the churchyard. The distinctive stones were provided by the War Graves Commission; there are 25 in the churchyard. To the right is a splendid cedar tree. Now return to the Victorian gas lamp post on the main path and walk straight ahead, off the tarmac path, passing by grave of Nigel Bateson (1876) with a fine Celtic cross.
4. Enclosure with graves of the Harvey family. Sir Robert Harvey was the last Lord of the Manor to live at Langley Park. Take the next path on the left just after the grave of Father Crawford (died 1969), first Parish Priest of Holy Family Roman Catholic Church, Langley.
5. Grave of Paul Nash, war artist and his wife Margaret. The carved hawk is a prominent symbol in his later paintings. The Nash graves are adjacent to the Harvey's, pause here for a moment then follow the short path to the grave of William Jones, "Victim of a Road Hog on the Colnbrook By-pass".
6. Laid hawthorn hedge at the rear of the church yard. Return to the main route. Follow the path around the corner at the top and back toward the Mountbatten Church Hall. As you go, note the graves of two war heroes; Arthur Blake R.N. killed in action in the Battle of Britain, known as 'the Admiral' and Lt. G Ward, of the Special Air Service.
7. Snowdrops and wild flowers can be seen in the hedgerow adjacent to the road. Follow the route back to the main path turning right and then left, toward the Mountbatten Church Hall and into the trees.
8. The Box trees were planted as small ornamental shrubs on graves at the beginning of the century. Follow the path through the trees, back toward the church.
9. Fine set of 18th Century headstones showing a skull, scythe and hourglass the symbols of mortality, and trumpets, angels and palm branches the symbols of the Christian hope of glory.

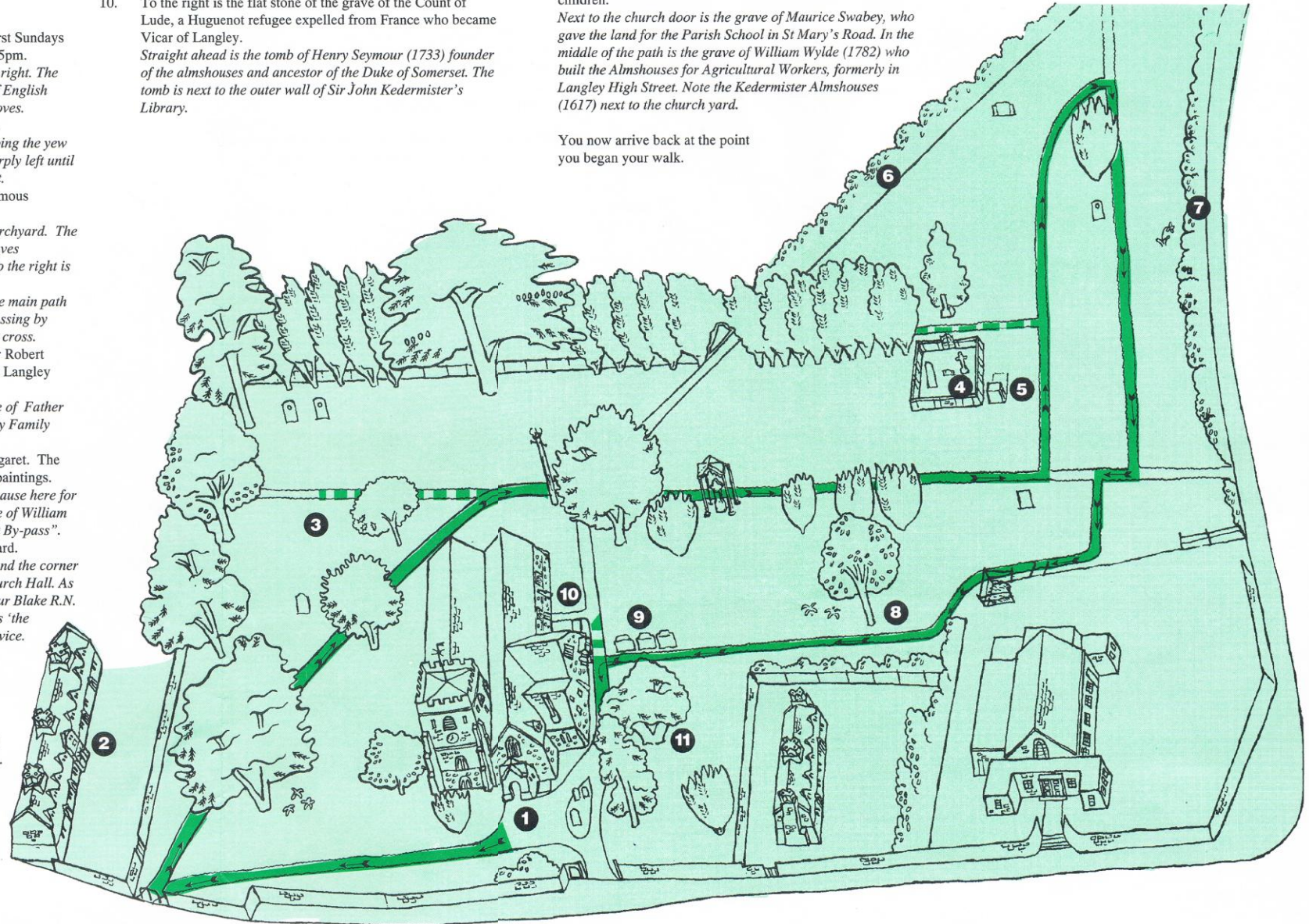
Rejoin the tarmac path. Look for the following features as you walk.

10. To the right is the flat stone of the grave of the Count of Lude, a Huguenot refugee expelled from France who became Vicar of Langley. Straight ahead is the tomb of Henry Seymour (1733) founder of the almshouses and ancestor of the Duke of Somerset. The tomb is next to the outer wall of Sir John Kedermister's Library.

11. On the left is an ancient yew tree, at least 500 years old; under it is the grave of John and Alice Guy and their 11 children.

Next to the church door is the grave of Maurice Swabey, who gave the land for the Parish School in St Mary's Road. In the middle of the path is the grave of William Wylde (1782) who built the Almshouses for Agricultural Workers, formerly in Langley High Street. Note the Kedermister Almshouses (1617) next to the church yard.

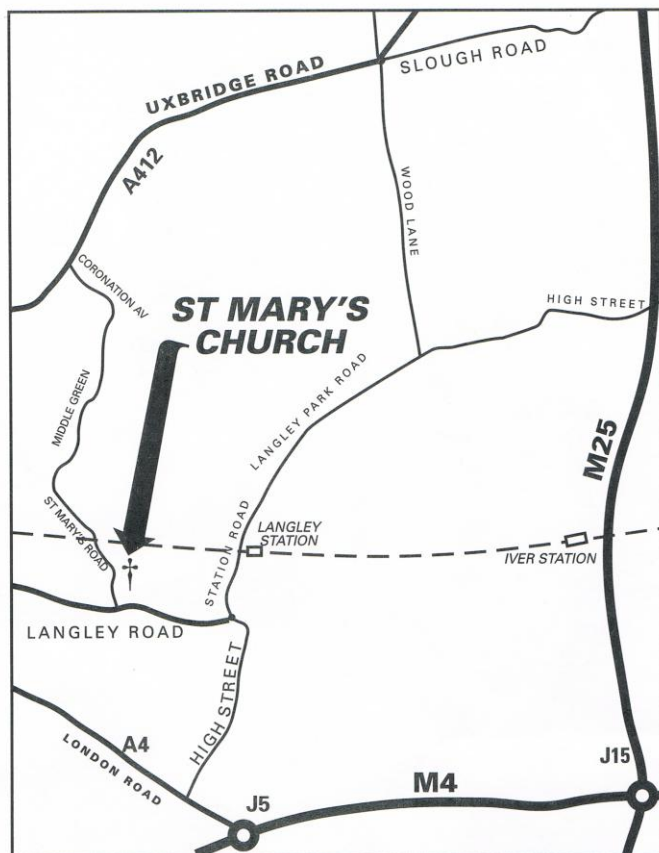
You now arrive back at the point you began your walk.



The churchyard well worth a visit for history and nature.



## To find St Mary's Langley



*This leaflet has been reproduced from an original copy, and some of the information may be a little out of date.*

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## St Mary's Heritage Trail

St Mary's Church, Langley, dates back to 1150 and from the beginning was surrounded by a churchyard. The original churchyard was extended in the 1930's. It is now closed, in the sense that there is no room for new burials; a very small area is still used for the burial of cremated remains.

*The churchyard is worth a visit for two reasons - history and nature.*

The oldest gravestones are from the early 17th Century. Many of the stones have carvings and interesting or unusual inscriptions. One nationally famous man lies here, the painter Paul Nash.

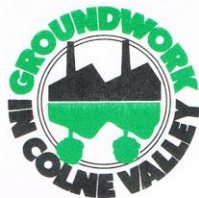
The churchyard is the largest habitat for wildlife in Langley. It is home to squirrels, hedgehogs, slow-worms and many species of birds and insects. More than a dozen different kinds of tree can be found here. The ground has never been touched by chemical sprays, so grasses and wild flowers grow freely.



The Church Council wishes to thank all those who have helped with the care and beautification of the churchyard; in particular Langley and Iver Rotaract Club, Slough Urban Wildlife Group, Langley College, the Colne Valley Groundwork Trust and English Nature.

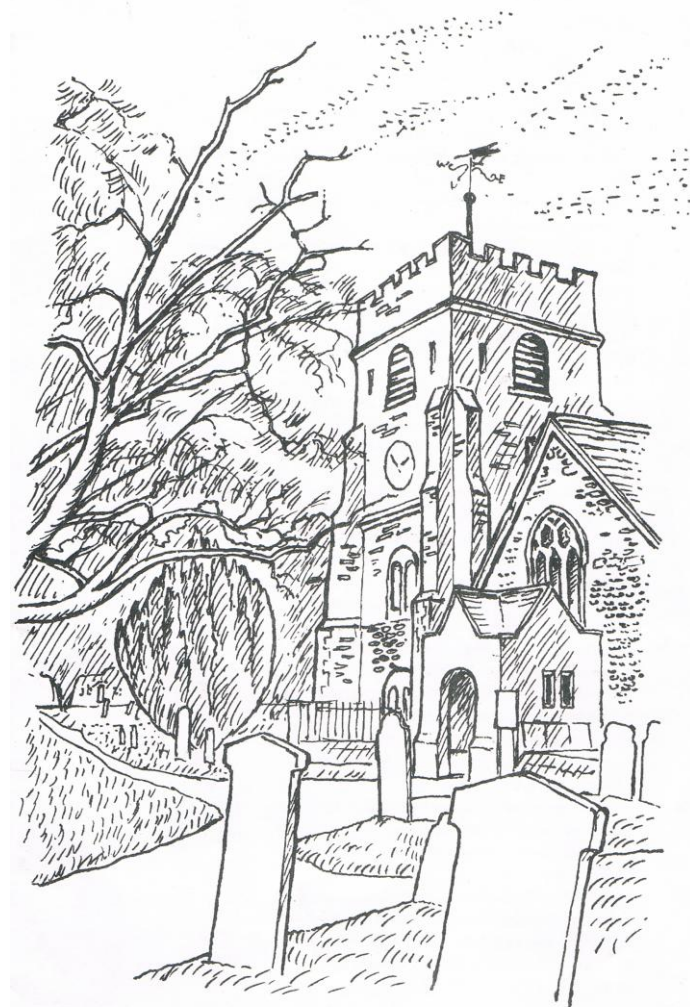
*Artwork by Michael Day.*

*This leaflet has been sponsored by the Countryside Commission through Greencare, Groundwork's Community Action Project.*



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