Somerset Botany Group Survey

St. James' Church, Taunton – main visit 7th June 2021, supplementary visit 29th June 2021

Surveyors: Simon Leach, Linda Everton, Chris Loudon & Maureen Webb, in the company of Sue Carpenter & Susie Peeler (both members of St James's Church)

Draft Report by Simon Leach 10/07/2021, Final Report 24/09/2021

View of southern section of the churchyard, looking west along St James Street

General description

The churchyard at St James' Church is comprised mainly of regularly mown grassland bisected in places by tarmac or gravel paths. Several of the grassland areas are well-populated with gravestones and tombs, especially along the southern side of the church, adjoining St James Street. There are some large trees including a several Yews (*Taxus baccata*). There are also a few planted shrubs and smaller specimen trees, including a shrub rose, a *Viburnum*, a Birch (*Betula* sp.) and a Rowan (*Sorbus aucuparia*). A low brick wall runs along the southern boundary of the churchyard, next to St James Street (cover photo). The iron railings, and presumably the wall itself, date from the early 19th century.

Fig. 1 provides a general map of the area, helpfully annotated by Sue Carpenter who accompanied us on the day of our survey. Main areas with gravestones are marked. Burials are now restricted to ashes, in a small section of grassland on the northern side of the churchyard (marked 'ashes interred' in Fig. 1). The church and the nearby Taunton Priory both date from the 12th century, and much of the grassland associated with the churchyard is likely to be of some considerable age.

Fig. 1 Map of St James' Church and churchyard, with annotations by Sue Carpenter to show areas of gravestones, planted trees and shrubs, etc.

The eastern border of the churchyard includes a private garden area attached to the row of almshouses administered by Taunton Heritage Trust. The northern boundary is mainly a high brick wall and wooden screen adjoining Somerset County Cricket Club's 'Cooper Associates County Ground'. The church tower is an important landmark which, together with the tower of St Mary's Church, helps

to give the county ground one of the most well-known and best loved backdrops of any in the country, rivalling that of Worcestershire with its cathedral. The tower is also sometimes used as a look-out and 'plucking station' by the Peregrines (*Falco peregrinus*) which have recently taken up residence on the tower at St Mary's Church.

The north-west corner of the churchyard adjoins St James Medical Centre and supports a small area of grassland which has been sown with an Emorsgate wild flower seed-mix (EM2, 'standard general purpose meadow mixture', see https://wildseed.co.uk/mixtures/view/3) plus seed of Yellow-rattle (*Rhinanthus minor*). Also in this area is an impressive 'bug hotel', built with the help of junior members of the congregation and their families (Figs 2 and 3).

Fig. 2 Bug Hotel and 'wild flower area' (marked in Fig. 1 as 'seeded area')

Fig. 3 The Bug Hotel, which could become a haven for invertebrates such as solitary bees

At the front of the church there is a car park and entrances to church office and church hall as well as the main entrance to the church itself. There is also a side entrance to the church, off St James Street. This is normally kept closed, but has been in use recently to enable there to be separate entrance and exit (and so a 'one-way system') during the coronavirus pandemic.

A full list of plant species recorded during our visit, plus a few 'extras' noted by SL on his follow-up visit, is given in Appendix 1. The column headed 'DAFOR' gives a frequency estimate for each species: R = Rare; O = Occasional; F = Frequent; A = Abundant; D = Dominant; L = 'Locally'. So, for example, 'R, LF' = 'Rare, Locally Frequent'. Below we give brief pen portraits of the main habitats.

The grassland

There is not a huge amount of variation in botanical composition of the grassland across the site (Fig. 4). It is generally rich in broad-leaved herbs ('forbs') and with a relatively low cover of grass species. The main forbs are Ribwort Plantain (*Plantago lanceolata*), Daisy, (*Bellis perennis*), White Clover (*Trifolium repens*), Creeping Buttercup (*Ranunculus repens*), Common Cat's-ear (*Hypochaeris radicata*), Self-heal (*Prunella vulgaris*) and Rough Hawkbit (*Leontodon hispidus*). Creeping Cinquefoil (*Potentilla reptans*) and Yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*) are also locally frequent; as are Dandelions (*Taraxacum* spp), which would merit closer investigation in early spring as there are almost certainly several different species involved.

Fig. 4 General view of grassland on north side of church, looking east towards the almshouses (the red brick 'terrace' in background)

Lesser Hawkbit (*Leontodon saxatilis*) is present in drier patches of grassland and on path edges and wall bases (along with the other yellow 'composites'), but it is seemingly much less common than *L. hispidus*. The predominance of herbs with basal rosettes (so with basal leaves growing tight to the ground) is presumably a consequence of the cutting management, with the frequent (monthly) mowing working to favour those species able to thrive under such conditions. Perhaps surprisingly, we could find no sign of Hoary Plantain (*Plantago media*), often a feature of churchyard grasslands in the Taunton area as elsewhere.

Fig. 5 Looking south along the main path that bisects the churchyard, toward St James Street, with the 'ashes' area on the left

The grass cover is variable. In some areas Red Fescue (*Festuca rubra*) is prominent, while Cock's-foot (*Dactylis glomerata*), Yorkshire Fog (*Holcus lanatus*) and Rough Meadow-grass (*Poa trivialis*) are generally the most frequent grasses in the sward. Common Couch (*Elytrigia repens*) and False Oat-grass (*Arrhenatherum elatius*) are seemingly restricted to the vicinity of stone tombs and slabs where they are able to avoid being repeatedly mown. Rye-grass (*Lolium perenne*), often a sign of re-seeding and nutrient enrichment, is pleasingly scarce and appears to be absent from much of the grassland. Common Bent (*Agrostis capillaris*) and Crested Dog's-tail (*Cynosurus cristatus*) were both observed in the 'ashes' area (see location in Fig. 1, and Fig. 5), while the latter is also abundant in the sown wild flower meadow. It is hard to spot when not flowering, so it may be generally more frequent than we thought. Both were included in the Emorsgate seed-mix, the other grasses being Red Fescue (*Festuca rubra*), Smooth Meadow-grass (*Poa pratensis*) and Small Cat's-tail (*Phleum bertolonii*). The first two of

these we found both within the sown 'wild flower' area and elsewhere, while the Small Cat's-tail we failed to see anywhere. Our visit was probably a bit early for the Cat's-tail, so another visit in July or August could prove more fruitful.

Amongst the scarcer species, perhaps the most noteworthy were Knotted Hedge-parsley (*Torilis nodosa*) and Round-leaved Crane's-bill (*Geranium rotundifolium*), both species of open drought-prone grassland, verges and waysides which have expanded their range and abundance in Taunton over the last twenty years. Both were seen in the 'gravestone' area next to the car park and main entrance to the church; this was a particularly species-rich patch of grassland and was one of the few areas where we found Common Sorrel (*Rumex acetosa*) and Black Medick (*Medicago lupulina*).

The 'wild flower' area was looking splendid at the time of our survey, and the prodigious quantities of Yellow-rattle (*Rhinanthus minor*) amongst a 'sea' of yellow composites (including much Common Cat's-ear (*Hypochaeris radicata*)) was a sight to behold! It had been marked off with string to ensure that it wouldn't be mown along with the rest of the grassland.

Trees and shrubs

As can be seen from Figs 1, 4 and 5, there are a number of shrubs and trees scattered across the site, including several large Yews (*Taxus baccata*) and what we assumed to be Western Red-cedars (*Thuja plicata*). We noted grass cuttings had been piled up around the base of one of the Yews (the one next to the 'ashes' area); there are also several Elder (*Sambucus nigra*) trees/saplings growing under this Yew, plus some plants of Stinking Iris (*Iris foetidissima*), the latter including at least two of the yellow var. *citrina*, a locally uncommon and not-often-recorded variety. The *Iris* is a native species but often grown in gardens, and it's unclear whether the plants here are natural arrivals or deliberately planted.

The same could be said of Tutsan (*Hypericum androsaemum*), another native woodland species which is also much cultivated, although in this case we suspect it may have established here under its own steam, the seed possibly arriving in the droppings of birds perched in the *Viburnum* above!

Recent plantings include a Rowan (*Sorbus aucuparia*) and some Honeysuckle (*Lonicera* sp.), the latter along the northern wall behind 'Gimblett Hill' (marked in Fig. 1). The Dogwood (*Cornus sanguinea*) behind the 'wild flower' area is also presumably planted, while the large 'bramble' in that area is a highly vigorous non-native species *Rubus armeniacus*, often known under the name 'Himalayan Giant'. It produces copious amounts of large fruit, popular with birds and humans alike!

Tracks, paths and stonework

The tracks and paths are of little botanical interest, apart from the gravel path next to the church office (Fig. 6) which supports a healthy population of Water Bent (*Polypogon viridis*) – a non-native grass that has spread rapidly in Taunton in the last 20-30 years. It is also increasing nationally: it is thought that this Mediterranean grass is increasing in the UK at least partly in response to climate change, especially the tendency towards milder winters. Despite the name 'water bent' it is capable of growing

in very dry conditions, and is common around town as a pavement weed. A close relative, Annual Beard-grass (*P. monspeliensis*) also occurs in Taunton, including in flower-beds outside the Brewhouse Theatre, which is within about 100 metres of St James' Church – so this is another species that could easily turn up within the churchyard in the future.

Fig. 6 Gravel path behind church office and hall, in which there is a thriving colony of Water Bent (Polypogon viridis)

The walls of the church, especially those that are north-facing, and the wall along the St James Street support a range of fern species. Hart's-tongue (*Asplenium scolopendrium*) is the commonest, but we also found little populations of Maidenhair Spleenwort (*A. trichomanes*) and Wall-rue (*A. ruta-muraria*) growing on particularly damp and shady stonework. Amongst the non-native/introduced 'wall' species Ivy-leaved Toadflax (*Cymbalaria muralis*) and Adria Bellflower (*Campanula*

portenschlagiana) are frequent—especially on the wall alongside St James Street—while Yellow Corydalis (*Pseudofumaria lutea*) and Mexican Fleabane (*Erigeron karvinskianus*) were also noted.

A few things we *didn't* see

There are a few notable absentees from the list of plant species in Appendix 1. It is hard to imagine that the churchyard wouldn't have Lesser Celandine (*Ficaria verna*) or Snowdrops (*Galanthus* sp.), but by the time of our survey both these late-winter and early-spring-flowering species would have been no longer visible. We may also have missed some spring-flowering grassland species, e.g. Sweet Vernal-grass (*Anthoxanthum odoratum*), while the total absence of Ivy-leaved Speedwell (*Veronica hederifolia*) and Daffodils (*Narcissus* agg.) is hard to believe. A few autumn-flowerers may have been missed too, such as Sowbread (*Cyclamen hederifolium*). The point here is simply that a full and comprehensive survey of the churchyard flora would necessitate multiple visits, at different times of year.

What is seen also depends, to some extent, on who's doing the survey and their individual and collective strengths and weaknesses. So, for example, we failed to record any lichens, and we noted very few bryophytes – which speaks volumes for our lack of expertise in these groups and our inability to identify the species involved! Further surveys, perhaps, with relevant experts in tow, would be worthwhile. In particular, a visit in the autumn specifically to record the fungi would be worth considering – churchyard grasslands can hold important populations of waxcap fungi, so an assessment of these, at least, would be useful. But you don't have to be an expert to start to tackle some of these less well-recorded groups: for example, Sue Carpenter recently stumbled upon the bright yellow and aptly named 'Dog Vomit' slime mould (*Fuligo septica*), a species often found in urban areas on bark mulch and on tree stumps (Fig. 7). Slime moulds are not fungi—they belong to a separate kingdom, the 'Protista'—but are often confused with fungi and tend to occur in similar habitats.

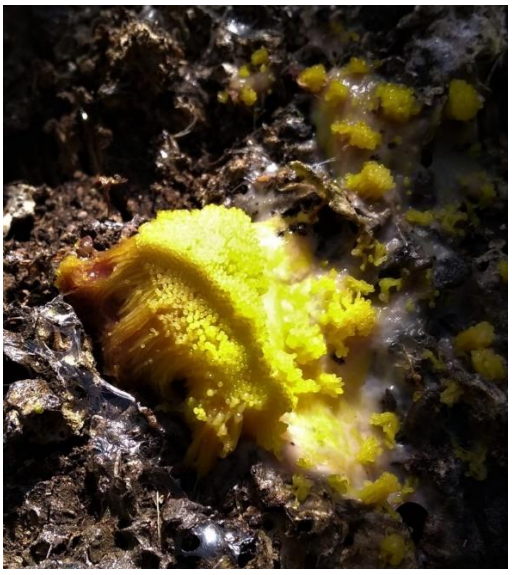

Fig. 7 The bile-coloured 'Dog Vomit' slime mould, recently found on a tree stump in St James' churchyard (Photo: Sue Carpenter)

Animals – a few notes

In assessing the biodiversity of St James' churchyard, we also need to take some account of its fauna. This is much harder to assess on a single visit, and especially so when the 'assessors' are mainly botanists! However, it is worth noting that during our visit we saw no fewer than *five* species of bumblebee, namely: Tree Bumblebee (*Bombus hypnorum*), Red-tailed Bumblebee (*B. lapidarius*), Common Carder Bee (*B. pascuorum*), Early Bumblebee (*B. pratorum*), and Buff-tailed Bumblebee (*B. terrestris*). Of the likely bumblebees to be found in Taunton, the only ones we *didn't* see during our survey were Garden Bumblebee (*Bombus hortorum*) and White-tailed Bumblebee (*B. lucorum*). The occurrence of Tree Bumblebee is of some interest: it is a relatively new arrival in the UK, having been first recorded (in Wiltshire) in 2001, and turning up in Somerset a few years later. The first records from the Taunton area were 10-15 years ago.

One of us has a particular interest in plant galls, and we noted leaf roll galls caused by the psyllid bug *Trioza centranthi* on Red Valerian (*Centranthus ruber*), as well as a mite gall on Shining Crane's-bill (*Geranium lucidum*) caused by *Aceria geranii*. The Red Valerian gall, much like the Water Bent (*Polypogon viridis*) and Tree Bumblebee, is an example of a southern/Mediterranean species that seems to be increasing and spreading rapidly northwards in the UK, possibly as a result of climate change. Another 'southern' species spreading northwards for similar reasons is the Thick-legged Flower Beetle (*Oedemera nobilis*), which one of us spotted in the 'wild flower' area. We saw hoverflies in this area, too, but were unable to identify any to species level. Perhaps surprisingly, we only saw two species of butterfly, Speckled Wood (*Pararge aegeria*) and Red Admiral (*Vanessa atalanta*); further visits would doubtless add to this meagre haul. We also have no information at all on the moths occurring in the churchyard, but bear in mind that even the smallest garden plot in Taunton can hold at least a hundred species!

Sue Carpenter kindly provided some notes on birds seen in the churchyard, including Blackbirds (*Turdus merula*), Robins (*Erithacus rubecula*), and Magpies (*Pica pica*), and it is likely that these and several other species will be nesting in the churchyard. Noisy family groups of Starlings (*Sturnus vulgaris*) are often seen perching on the church tower from late spring onwards, while flocks of Redwings (*Turdus iliacus*) and Fieldfares (*T. pilaris*) are occasionally seen in winter. The use of the church tower by Peregrines (*Falco peregrinus*) has already been noted. Certainly, the birds frequenting the churchyard at different times of the year would merit closer investigation.

Sue tells us that, in addition to humans, mammals using the churchyard include Grey Squirrel (*Sciurus carolinensis*), Fox (*Vulpes vulpes*) and probably Badger (*Meles meles*).

Recommendations for future management

We were pleased to have Sue Carpenter and Susie Peeler with us to explain the existing management arrangements and their work to raise the profile of the churchyard's value for biodiversity within the church community. Plans for the area are supported by the Diocese of bath and Wells through its 'Wilder Churches' initiative in partnership with Somerset Wildlife Trust.

Essentially, the churchyard is managed by Somerset West and Taunton (SWT), with the church able to request adjustments to the management regime as necessary. The main grassland areas are cut approximately once a month throughout spring and summer, although in 2020—perhaps due to the covid-19 pandemic—the cutting frequency was reduced, possibly with only three cuts in all. It is hoped that cutting frequency can be reduced in future years, to allow better development of the meadow flora and giving most grassland species a chance to flower and set seed before being cut down. It is important, however, to remember that cutting (or grazing) is an important tool in maintaining grassland communities, and that *lack* of cutting can be just as damaging as *too much* cutting! The important thing is to get the balance right. There is excellent advice on grass management in the Caring for God's Acre Action Pack (https://www.caringforgodsacre.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/A2-Caring-for-Grassland-v2.pdf).

Sue reported that the grass cuttings are generally removed by the mowers, but we did notice piles of cuttings beneath one of the Yews. Removal of cuttings from the sward is important, and we would recommend that if possible they should also be removed *off-site*: mowing the grassland, and taking away the cuttings, is one way that nutrients can be removed from the soil – lowering the nutrient status of the soil can only benefit the species diversity of the grassland, since high nutrient levels are generally associated with low species richness, and *vice versa*.

The sown 'wild flower' area shows how quickly the species composition and richness of a grassland can be transformed. The impact of the Yellow-rattle in reducing the vigour of some other species, especially the grasses, was clearly evident. It is suggested that this area could be scythed rather than mown, and that it could provide a seed source for use on further patches of grassland elsewhere in the churchyard. As a start, it might be worth trying to *expand* the 'wild flower' area by simply enlarging the roped-off section to take in some of the adjoining grassland; relaxing the mowing regime across this larger area would hopefully allow the Yellow-rattle to spread from its present plot. It may be necessary to cut back the Himalayan Giant (*Rubus armeniacus*) behind the 'wild flower' area, to stop it taking up too much room!

Sue spoke to us about her idea of maybe erecting an information board somewhere along the St James Street frontage, explaining the ecological value of the churchyard and how it is being managed for the benefit of its flora and fauna. An excellent idea, we thought, and to that end it would be good to undertake a few more surveys, particularly of the lichens, fungi and the various under-recorded animal groups (e.g. birds, butterflies, moths, hoverflies), to gain a more rounded view of the churchyard's biodiversity. Perhaps this is something Somerset Wildlife Trust could get involved in, via its own network of specialist groups? Or maybe the Natural History section of the Somerset Archaeological and Natural History Society? Might it be worth considering holding a 'bioblitz' day, when experts and members of the public come along and see how many species they can record in a single day? Something to consider, possibly, once the covid-19 pandemic is over?

There will, of course, be many churchyards in Somerset with a much higher value for wildlife. Most of the plant species occurring in St James' churchyard are generally quite widespread and common in the county—there are no great rarities here—but nevertheless with well over one-hundred species the list is impressively long; and we would suggest that the churchyard's central location and ease of access, as well as the abundance of many 'common-but-colourful' species in the grass sward, make

this potentially an ideal place for the general public, as well as members of the church community, to 'engage with nature'.

Appendix 1

A list of plant species seen in St James' churchyard, June 2021

Scientific name	English name	DAFOR	Notes
Aegopodium podagraria	Ground-elder	R	
Agrostis capillaris	Common Bent	R, LO	
Agrostis stolonifera	Creeping Bent	R	
Alchemilla mollis	Garden Lady's-mantle	R	Originally planted?
Alopecurus pratensis	Meadow Foxtail	R, LF	
Anisantha sterilis	Barren Brome	R	
Anthriscus sylvestris	Cow Parsley	R	
Arrhenatherum elatius	False Oat-grass	R, LO	
Asplenium ruta-muraria	Wall-rue	R	N-facing wall of church
Asplenium scolopendrium	Hart's-tongue	R, LF	N-facing wall of church and roadside walls
Asplenium trichomanes	Maidenhair Spleenwort	R	Walls
Bellis perennis	Daisy	A	
Brachypodium sylvaticum	False-brome	R	In shady grassland
Buddleja davidii	Butterfly-bush	R	Self-sown
Campanula portenschlagiana	Adria Bellflower	R, LF	Roadside walls
Cardamine flexuosa	Wavy Bitter-cress	R	
Carex divulsa	Grey Sedge	R	
Carex hirta	Hairy Sedge	R	
Carex pendula	Pendulous Sedge	R	In gravel path near church office
Centranthus ruber	Red Valerian	R, LF/A	In gravel areas at back of church hall, especially area of dense gravestones; has galls of *Trioza centranthi*
Cerastium fontanum	Common Mouse-ear	R	In grassland near church office
Cerastium glomeratum	Sticky Mouse-ear	R	Path verge
Circaea lutetiana	Enchanter's-nightshade	R	
Convolvulus arvensis	Field Bindweed	O	Including the following forms: *arvensis, pallidiroseus,*

			pentarrhabdotus, decemvulnerus and *pentastichus* – would repay further study! At least the last two of these appear to be quite scarce in Somerset
Conyza sumatrensis	Guernsey Fleabane	R	
Cornus sanguinea	Dogwood	R	Planted
Cotoneaster simonsii	Himalayan Cotoneaster	R	Planted or bird-sown
Crepis capillaris	Smooth Hawk's-beard	R	
Cymbalaria muralis	Ivy-leaved Toadflax	R, LF	Mainly on walls
Cynosurus cristatus	Crested Dog's-tail	O	Included in the seed-mix in 'wild flower' area
Dactylis glomerata	Cock's-foot	F/A	
Daucus carota subsp. *carota*	Wild Carrot	R	In sown 'wild flower' area, included in the seed-mix
Digitalis purpurea	Foxglove	R	Originally planted, in and adjoining sown 'wild flower' area
Dipsacus fullonum	Wild Teasel	R	
Dryopteris filix-mas	Male-fern	R	N-facing wall of church, 1 young plant
Elytrigia repens	Common Couch	O	
Epilobium hirsutum	Great Willowherb	R	
Epilobium montanum	Broad-leaved Willowherb	O	
Epilobium obscurum	Short-fruited Willowherb	O	In tarmac paths and verges, id needs checking
Epilobium parviflorum	Hoary Willowherb	R	
Epilobium tetragonum	Square-stalked Willowherb	R	Patch of rough ground, id needs double-checking
Erigeron karvinskianus	Mexican Fleabane	R/O	Walls
Eupatorium cannabinum	Hemp-agrimony	R	
Euphorbia peplus	Petty Spurge	O	Edge of tarmac path
Festuca rubra	Red Fescue	F/A	
Fraxinus excelsior	Ash	R	A single young tree, presumably self-sown
Galium aparine	Cleavers	R, LO	
Geranium dissectum	Cut-leaved Crane's-bill	R	
Geranium lucidum	Shining Crane's-bill	O	
Geranium molle	Dove's-foot Crane's-bill	O	
Geranium pyrenaicum	Hedgerow Crane's-bill	R	One patch, sown 'wild flower' area
Geranium robertianum	Herb-Robert	O	Mainly in shady areas, in stonework and on walls
Geranium rotundifolium	Round-leaved Crane's-bill	R	In dry grass verge on S side of church
Geum urbanum	Wood Avens	O/F	
Glechoma hederacea	Ground-ivy	R	
Hedera helix agg.	Ivy	O, LF/A	Abundant under some of the large trees
Holcus lanatus	Yorkshire-fog	O/F	
Hypericum androsaemum	Tutsan	R	Under *Viburnum* bush, possibly self-sown?
Hypochaeris radicata	Common Cat's-ear	F/A	
Ilex aquifolium	Holly	R	

Iris foetidissima	Stinking Iris	R, LO	Possibly originally planted? Includes var. *citrina*
Leontodon hispidus	Rough Hawkbit	A	
Leontodon saxatilis	Lesser Hawkbit	O, LF	
Lolium perenne	Perennial Rye-grass	R	
Lonicera sp.	Honeysuckle	R	Planted, along wall at back of cricket ground (Gimblett's Hill)
Malva sylvestris	Common Mallow	R	Under one or two large trees
Medicago arabica	Spotted Medick	R	
Medicago lupulina	Black Medick	R/O	
Mycelis muralis	Wall Lettuce	R	Single plant, behind roadside wall
Myosotis arvensis	Field Forget-me-not	O	
Origanum sp.	Marjoram	R	Planted
Parietaria judaica	Pellitory-of-the-Wall	O, LF	On walls and in stonework
Plantago lanceolata	Ribwort Plantain	A	
Plantago major	Greater Plantain	O	
Poa annua	Annual Meadow-grass	R/O	
Poa pratensis	Smooth Meadow-grass	R	In sown 'wild flower' area, possibly elsewhere
Poa trivialis	Rough Meadow-grass	F	
Polygonum aviculare agg.	Common Knotgrass	R	
Polypodium vulgare sens. lat.	Polypody	R	
Polypogon viridis	Water Bent	R, LA	Abundant in gravel path and gravestone area behind church office and hall – a common pavement weed in Taunton
Potentilla reptans	Creeping Cinquefoil	O, LA	
Prunella vulgaris	Selfheal	A	
Pseudofumaria lutea	Yellow Corydalis	R	Naturalized on walls and in stonework, surprisingly rare
Ranunculus repens	Creeping Buttercup	A	
Rhinanthus minor	Yellow-rattle	R, LA	Introduced: abundant in sown 'wild flower' area
Rubus armeniacus		R	A non-native bramble; large patch behind sown 'wild flower' area
Rubus fruticosus agg.	Bramble	O	
Rumex acetosa	Common Sorrel	R	In grassland at SW corner of churchyard
Rumex sanguineus	Wood Dock	R	
Sagina apetala	Annual Pearlwort	R	
Sagina procumbens	Procumbent Pearlwort	R	
Sambucus nigra	Elder	O	Often around base of larger planted trees (e.g. Yew), presumably bird-sown
Scrophularia auriculata	Water Figwort	R	1 plant, growing with one of the planted honeysuckles
Sedum album	White Stonecrop	R	Planted on roof of 'bug hotel' in sown 'wild flower' area
Senecio jacobaea (= *Jacobaea vulgaris*)	Common Ragwort	O, LF	
Senecio vulgaris	Groundsel	R	
Silene dioica	Red Campion	R	Adjoining sown 'wild flower' area, included in the seed-mix

Sonchus arvensis	Perennial Sow-thistle	R, LF	In grassland near roadside
Sonchus asper	Prickly Sow-thistle	R	
Sonchus oleraceus	Smooth Sow-thistle	O	
Sorbus aucuparia	Rowan	R	Planted
Stachys sylvatica	Hedge Woundwort	R	
Taraxacum agg.	Dandelion species	F	Probably several species; would repay further investigation in Feb-April next year
Taxus baccata	Yew	O	Planted
Thuja plicata?	Western Red-cedar	R	Planted; probably this species (didn't look closely)
Torilis nodosa	Knotted Hedge-parsley	R	1 plant in grassland near SW corner of churchyard
Trifolium dubium	Lesser Trefoil	O	
Trifolium pratense	Red Clover	R	Surprisingly rare
Trifolium repens	White Clover	A/D	
Urtica dioica	Common Nettle	R	
Valerianella carinata	Keeled-fruited Cornsalad	R	
Veronica arvensis	Wall Speedwell	O	
Veronica chamaedrys	Germander Speedwell	O	
Veronica filiformis	Slender Speedwell	R	Only 1 small patch seen of this non-native species which is often found in lawns and churchyards
Veronica serpyllifolia	Thyme-leaved Speedwell	R/O	
Vicia sativa	Common Vetch	R	
Viola reichenbachiana	Early Dog-violet	O, LA	Probably this species abundant in some shady spots, e.g. beneath large trees
Vulpia myuros	Rat's-tail Fescue	R	1 plant in tarmac – a frequent pavement weed in Taunton