

DEAD TREE(S)

The 'official' time limit having expired, I invited Ben and John Turner of Houghton and Robin Mogridge of Avonwick to quote for felling the dead tree. I also asked them to cast a glance at the others - in case.

The Turners came first (naturally, being just up the road) and quoted £80 plus VAT for the dead tree ; they recommended that the second tree from the top of the row should be felled. It was dying from the top and since the balancing 'trunk' on the west side of the main trunk had been cut down years ago [ I think in Rachel Hall's time] it would fall across a number of gravestones and make quite a mess. It would be a "3-men job". They quoted £210+ for the two jobs together.


Mogridge came on Thursday. His figures were £80-90+ and (having - unprompted- made much the same comments about the second tree ) £220 -230+.

On Friday, I rang Regan, the tree man at SHDC, and told him what the two comments had been. He asked who the men were and, on hearing the names, immediately said that both knew the business backward and were experts whose opinions he would not query at all. I have also left a message for Brian McCabe (Parish tree warden).

If we have the money, I propose that we ask Ben Turner to fell both the trees.

? Content.  


RCT. 16/11/96

Serek 

X Michael ✓ Agreed

Doina



# SOUTH HAMS DISTRICT COUNCIL

## PLANNING AND HOUSING DEPARTMENT

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Our Ref: JR/DJH/LF/CA40

Ext. 435

Please ask for: Mr. J. Regan

Mr. R.C. Trant,  
Markland,  
Ringmore,  
KINGSBRIDGE,  
Devon.

27th November 1996

Dear Mr. Trant, <sup>30/11</sup>

### TREES AT ALL HALLOWS CHURCHYARD.

This is just to confirm that this Council has no objection to the felling of the dead Sycamore trees.

Having looked through the regulations I have learnt that trees in churchyards are exempt from Tree Preservation Order controls. Hence there is no need to consult this Council should you need to do further works in the future.

Yours sincerely,

*J. Regan*

**JOHN REGAN**  
**Landscape and Forestry Officer**

- ① Brian - for information!
- ② Derek to see
- ③ R

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Director of Planning and Housing and Chief Executive to the Council



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

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V. qd. -

Can also feel sure the P.C.C. will agree to Mopridge

→ to the cost - still under £300. also £100 pounds  
recreable of fine wood. ✓ +

thinner or charcoal?

provided us branches with heads of charcoal  
heavy bells.

must not do until Autumn.

Shall I discuss with Michael re pt permission.

who would cut the firewood?

Could he not have it as a compensation/reward?

a) Bon fire for rubbish.

b) drop wood in field.

N.C. could have some

beginning 1 July. £



Dear Michael,

Church Trees.

Mr. MOORIDGE "Treescape" from  
Avonwick on Sunday. He + Col. Gunshel  
looked at the trees..

Only the one "litten" tree has to  
come down. The others have to be  
shortened or thinned accordingly to  
what seems best.



Mr. Murgidge would do the work.  
Apparently in a Conservation Area  
it has to be done professionally. We  
are all grateful to you for offering to  
do it.

Please may we have your permission to:-

1. drop wood into your field
2. for people to cut it up there.

The idea is to sell the wood for  
firewood (to members of the congregation)  
but your permission must have some  
fee if you would like it.

3. to let the rubbishy wood be  
burnt there. But if that would be  
a great nuisance to you he might  
be able to make another plan.

The book would be done in  
about 3 weeks time and take 2 days.

I had hoped to put it all off  
until September. But it seems that  
would not be right, for the bees  
themselves or for safety.

Please will you let me know that  
you are happy for you find to be ~~used~~ used



f the word.

Yours sincerely,

Rachel Hall.

Trees.

#310-50



From the Rector.

As long as a Churchyard remains open for burials, its care and maintenance are the responsibility of the Parochial CHURCH Council. Local civil authorities usually make a grant (entirely at their discretion) towards the cost, on the grounds that all parishioners (whether members of the Church or not) are entitled to be buried in the Churchyard. The civil authority has no official responsibility for the Churchyard. All decisions are the prerogative of the CHURCH Council in conjunction with the Incumbent who has the Freehold.

The final responsibility for the burial of the dead rests with the CIVIL authority. The above paragraph makes it clear that they have no problems as long as there is an "open" Churchyard.

If it seems likely that a Churchyard will have to be closed, one or two options are open to the CHURCH Council:-

1. If there is an area where burials have not taken place for a very long time, it may be possible to re-use that area. A faculty would have to be obtained (whether or not this involved the removal of old headstones), with people being given proper rights of objecting to the scheme. The Archdeacon and the Diocesan Legal Secretary would be the first people to approach.
2. Under Section 18 of the Burial Act 1855, the Church Council could declare the Churchyard "closed". This would mean that there could be no new graves or burials; but where provision had already been made, a family grave or vault could be re-opened.
3. The Church Council could apply to purchase land as a Churchyard extension. Permission for this is rarely granted nowadays unless there are very exceptional circumstances.

In effect this means that the CIVIL authority is required to provide and maintain a burial ground for which the Church has no responsibility. Burial fees (as opposed to fees for the Burial Service in Church) would go to the CIVIL authority.

At the same time, under section 215 of the Local Government Act 1972, the CHURCH Council is entitled to serve a written request to the CIVIL Authority to take over the maintenance of the closed Churchyard as well. In turn, if the local Parish Council are not in a position to undertake either the provision of a Burial Ground or the maintenance of the closed Churchyard, they are entitled to pass the responsibility on to the District Council.

It must be borne in mind that, if this happened, a District Council may find it did not have sufficient funds to maintain the closed Churchyard which would then become overgrown. Also, if the District Council has Burial Grounds elsewhere they can demand that burials take place in the existing ones (where-ever they may be situated) instead of providing a new Burial Ground in the local Parish. Local people would not be over-happy about such an arrangement.

When there is the possibility of the closure of a Churchyard, the CHURCH Council is legally required to give the local CIVIL Authority three months notice; but Church Councils are urged (in order to avoid inconveniencing the Civil Council) to give informal notice 12 months ahead, and follow it with the formal notice three months before actual closure.

Ringmore - unless there is an unexpected epidemic - is not likely to have a problem just yet. Perhaps local undertakers could be invited to express an opinion, and maybe the local History Society would be interested in carrying out a helpful survey.

=====

The Rev. G. Corbett



EXETER DIOCESAN PARSONAGES BOARD

With the compliments of the Secretary

18 Cathedral Yard  
Exeter  
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22.7.85 19.....



COPY/

K/JW/385

22nd July 1985

Dear Mr. Williams,

Ringmore Rectory

Thank you for your letter of 8th July 1985.


The Board appreciates your kind offer to provide and maintain trees in the Rectory grounds and having taken advice, it is ~~agreed~~ that some tree planting may be carried out although this should not include any Poplar due to the extensive root system which such trees develop.

It is suggested that the triple row shown on your diagram along the north eastern boundary should be reduced to two rows, staggered of Ash and Oak and that the White Beam and Ash on the western boundary, close to the south west corner of the Rectory should be omitted also.

In time, some trees will need to be taken out, to allow the others to develop properly. Can it be agreed that this is understood and accepted despite this being a Conservation Area?

Yours sincerely,

K. G. Williams Esq.,  
Chairman of Parish Council,  
c/o Mrs. J. Ebsworth,  
Crosswick,  
St. Anns Chapel,  
Bigbury,  
S.Devon  
c.c. Incumbent





Thank you.

v. relevant.

draft of letter re: 'Sed-  
terrace' garden.

The chair of the D.C.

The Parish Council take a grant each  
as a P.C.C. member

to add the upkeep of the graveyard, as you will  
know. This is at their discretion & the grant is fixed each year.  
After their chairman told me over the telephone  
that new members were asking if the Council  
had legal right to buy <sup>extra</sup> land. The Rectory says there is none.  
I did tell them

very much about it except that I had a feeling  
that it would be a space <sup>wherever</sup> ~~each~~ ~~time~~ ~~there~~ a

grave is needed (variation is diff). I asked  
the Rectory there is no such <sup>also</sup> ~~land~~ Regulation given ch. yards  
as you can argue. The Rectory says no <sup>copy of H.A.</sup> ~~copy of H.A.~~ <sup>to show what rules</sup> governing ch. yards.

It would be v. helpful if the Soc. could  
help - <sup>by</sup> ~~is~~ to nominate (1) old graves, no desuetude

living locally, no special historical or artistic interest  
and <sup>(2)</sup> possibly re-usable space, <sup>where there are no headstones.</sup> without headstones.

Relays (2) is more for the undertaker.

\* Professional advice as to action & types of tree for replacement discounted?

Parochial Church Council.

Dear Rachael,

Copy to: Stan Brunskill  
Peggy Williams  
Reg Trant  
The Rector.

Alice

Sycamores in Church Boundary.

Reg Trant has circulated Mr Moore's points and the Standing Committees Proposals. It is important to differentiate between an old tree which is 'rotten' and one that is 'rotting'. Some of us older people may be slowly rotting but we aren't rotten and ready to be 'put down'!! 'tooth' better? perhaps - head on line

The sycamores have been planted at more or less regular intervals. My guess is that they were planted by Hingstone Randolph to protect as soon as possible the new roof on his renovated 'Church of God'. Mr Moore tells me that the trees are about 126 years old. F.C.H.R. always took a long view. These trees have and still are protecting the Church from the North-westerly gales and could do so for a few years ~~yet~~ to come if we look after them. Even with the sycamores when they were smaller the slates were stripped off the roof in the gale of Dec. 12th 1980. The Euonymus and Viburnum will never reach more than 10 feet and therefore give no protection. The west end of the church at one time had to be slated to keep out the damp.

Mr Moore says there is no footing in which to plant replacement trees. This is true. Therefore in order to fulfill our responsibility to protect lives from falling trees and flying slates, I would like to put an amendment to the proposal in the paper circulated to us. It is seconded by Stan Brunskill.

- Resolved.
1. To remove the rotten tree opposite Thomas Boon's grave.
  2. To remove the dying Acacia at the end of the Institute and replace it.
  3. To pollard professionally the remaining sycamores in the Church Yard at about 20 feet, trim all cuts and treat with the latest preservatives including branches overhanging Mr Capps's field. Cost to be covered by coffee mornings etc. (This will leave us with a safe measure of windage on the trees and some protection for the church roof, at least after the first season of growth.)
  4. To retain all present shrubs in the hedge and plant more where practical using holly, hazel, hawthorn and other traditional hedge trees. [At the same time to plant the north boundary with similar hedge trees.]
  5. To initiate negotiations with Mr Capps for permission to plant and protect trees at the bottom of his wall on his property & perhaps Lombardy Poplars which grow tall without spreading. These would have made a good start if in 10 or 15 years the Sycamores are showing too much rotting. This would re-establish for him protection from the cold and snow of the northerly gales. (The present plan will remove all his protection.)
  6. Check that, having removed the really rotten trees, and with this plan, our third party insurance covers claims due to flying slates and the less likelihood of pollarded trees falling.

Proposed: G.C. Grimshaw.

Seconded: S. Brunskill.

This proposal has two further advantages to my mind. One, it will retain the present quiet and sheltered atmosphere of the church yard and improve it. Two, it will set a better example to others on the creative care of trees as opposed to easy destruction which is all too prevalent these days.

George Grimshaw.



Ringmore Churchyard

Notes after conversation with the Rector 3.10.85.

Church has no legal entitlement to any (other) land.

A church yard can be closed. Only family graves can be used, ie added to.

If a church yard is closed the responsibility for providing and maintaining a graveyard passes to the Parish Council. If the Parish council is unable it passes to the District Council who can arrange for a cemetery in, e.g. Totnes, to be used.

There are regulations governing ch yards. The Rector was trying to find a copy. ✓

Ringmore has been faced with the problem of finding new space.

They nominated an old part of the Ch yard for reuse. After the necessary notice had been posted up etc and discussions etc. it was gathered agreed as being better than going to Totnes.

\* I doubt that Ringmore church yard has any areas without new graves. But it would be a useful project for the local archaeologists to catalogue the graves that might be suitable, old, no descendants living locally, no special historical or artistic interest.

The Rector pointed out that there are few burials each year. Also there may well be spaces I have missed.

x he has said sent the attached paper. I'd like it  
back please.

20.x.85.  
George Grenham has agreed, verbally, to do this.

Mutt.



Copy 1

TreesNote of meeting

2 May 1985

Mr. Moore, the Landscape & Forestry Officer of the South Hams DC called by invitation to see the sycamore trees on the west wall of the churchyard and the acacia in the grounds of the church hall. He was met by Lady Hall, Mr. Brunskill and Mr. Trant.

Mr. Moore inspected the sycamores both from the churchyard and from Mr. Capps' property adjoining. He considered that seven of the sycamores were old trees which had been pollarded at some time in the past and were now decaying downwards from the pollard; the oldest tree had already begun to collapse. Their roots were breaking out of the wall and would in time bring the wall down. The longer treatment was delayed, the worse the remedy would be and he recommended that all of them should come out. Application for permission to fell them should be made to the District Council (as required by the Town and Country Amenities Act 1974 and Section 61a of the Town and Country Planning Act 1971 for trees in a designated Conservation Area).

Together with the application, it was also necessary to make proposals for replacement of the felled trees. Mr. Moore suggested that smaller trees (of fruit tree size) or large shrubs should be chosen; after considering a number of possibilities, he recommended euonymus japonica (the Japanese spindle) and viburnum tinus as being both suitable for growing and appropriate for the particular situation.

He recommended that the sycamore stumps should be cut very tight and low (perhaps needing six or seven cuts) and then killed with ammonium sulphamate or sodium chlorate.

Mr. Moore also inspected the acacia which had been reported as interfering with the fine specimen of copper beech in the church hall grounds (also within the Conservation Area). Although at first glance, the acacia seemed to be in reasonable, if not good, health, close inspection showed that it was rotten at the base and could be classified as dangerous. He recommended that it should be removed. As it was so close to the beech, it was probably better not to put another tree in the same position, but to place it further away.

Mr. Moore left an information sheet on trees in Conservation Areas and application forms and agreed to supply plans of the Conservation Area which are required to accompany the forms.

For information

1. Rector	✓
2. Miss Trueman	✓
3. Mrs. Lock	✓
4. Mrs. Mason	✓

RST

Please pass on

I can " " if you like, I shall be ~~last~~ dealing out the Minutes. R.C.T. is away part

Please may I (P.M.H.) have the parish copy of the architect's Report etc.?

RST

MIDDLE HAVEN,  
SYDNEY.  
WEDNESDAY  
1974.  
Sunday.

Dear Rachel,

Michael

Mr Mogridge came and looked at the trees in the Church Yard. He said that there may be some rotting in the crowns but there is plenty of vigorous growth and reckons they will live for many years yet, giving us time the raise their successors.

At last he suggested just thinning the crowns and thus retaining a reasonable shape. I said that the P.C.C. would be happier if they were lowered in spite of the somewhat unsightly shape for a time. So he recommends:

1. Lower the crowns to 20% = no fire
2. Thin and shorten side limbs.
3. Cut down completely the rotten tree, which he said had probably been struck by lightning at some time.

To achieve this he will need to:

1. Lower some branches into the Church Yard.
2. Whip the tops over into Mr Capps field.
3. Leave wood suitable for fire wood uncut in the field.

✓ 4. Burn if we wish the rubbish, and small wood unsuitable for fire wood.

✓ He estimates £200 to £220 - approx. £40 per tree.

He looked at the Accacia and agreed it was spoiling the Copper beech, but he said the ✓ copper beech needed thinning as it would start deteriorating.

He estimated £50 to cut down the Accacia and thin the Copper Beech. There would be rubbish to be burnt, but he would leave the wood suitable for fire wood for us to cut up.

He could come & do the work in about 3 weeks time. I said I would let him know our decision.

We need to have Michael Capps permission to drop wood into his field - to cut it up - who? and to burn rubbish.

TOTAL COST around £270.

Clearly for an amateur to do it would be very hazardous.

Yours Sincerely, George.

P.S. We could sell the fire-wood to members of the congregation or others in the village or cover £100 or more. Who?



THE SYCAMORES in the Church Yard. Ringmore.

After consultation with two different "experts", it was decided by the P.C.C. to employ a tree expert to "object" them.

Treescape Arbricists of Avonwick came at the end of June and lowered the crowns but did not pollard the trees. They also "raised the crowns" by thinning the side branches and taking out some awkward stems.

They cut out completely one ancient and rotten tree and one misshapen tree. These two may well throw up new growth which we can control.

Some firewood was left to R. Capps, the remainder removed to the Church Room where

an Acacia Tree which had a rotten core and  
was dangerous was cut down and again  
the crown of the Copper Beech was thinned.

This fire wood is being sold off as and  
when anyone comes to collect it. I think  
3 x £10 has so far been raised towards expenses.

Planting has also taken place.

An evergreen oak "*Quercus Ilex*" has  
been planted in the N.W. corner of the  
grave yard. Three beeches have been  
planted around the Church Room, this Nov. 1985.

Report by:

G.C. Garimohan. Feb. 1986.

Barnford

17yh. June 1985.

Dear George,

Thank you for your letter about the church trees. I am very glad that you are doing what you are doing and grateful to you for giving me a detailed report at each stage.

The P.C.C. is most likely to agree to our using Mr. Mogridge and to his estimated charges\_\_ still under £300 with £100 or so recoverable from fire-wood.

They would not, I think, agree to the work being done "in about three weeks time". I, for one, would be against that and in favour of a time after the holiday season and before the equinoxes about the second week in September.

#### Shortening

If the object of this is to prevent branches from touching the church roof, it would only be needed (after the condemned tree has gone), ~~in~~ for the ~~one~~ tree, the tree next to it, the last but one on the south end.

But probably there is another reason, such as decreasing the leverage on the roots? Otherwise thinning could be better for the trees north of the condemned one?

#### Negotiations with Michael

I would be prepared to talk to him and to ask his permission provided the work was put off till the Autumn and when we have decided how much shortening to have done.

Who would cut up the firewood? Could Michael not have it, or some of it as a compensation/reward?

Yours sincerely,

Rachel (A44)



Barnford

17th. June 1985.

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Yours sincerely,

Rachel (Acll)

12. XI. 85

Slaw Brunkell

has ordered / bought

1 evergreen oak for n.e. corner  
of church yard.

MIDDLE RIVER,  
RIVINGTON,  
NEW HAMPSHIRE,  
U.S.A.  
12 June 86.

Dear Rachael,

I have arranged with Mr Macgridge of Treescape N.Y. & Park to come over on Fri. at 6 pm. to have a look at the trees & hopefully give an estimate of the cost of topping.

He was recommended to me by Dartington Woodlands Staff and did a very good job on a vast macrocarpa tree in my garden.

He comes from Avonmouth, so has not far to travel.

Reunions at the Church.

Yours Sincerely, 2 27°

Henry

---



P.S. I said the  
Committee had to  
make the decisions &  
I would let him know as soon  
as possible. Dr.

18 June 85.

Dear Rachael,

Thank you for your helpful notes. It is probably  
good to get the facts down on paper for reference to  
the standing office.

I rang Mr Rogridge last night. He said it would  
take 2 days to do the Church trees and one day for  
the Accacia. He rang me again early this morning  
and said "he had been thinking about the trees." There  
can't be many tree experts who stay awake thinking  
about the job!

He said that the trees at the North end of the row  
are taller than those near the Church, therefore he thought  
he could take more off the taller trees and not so  
much off the lower trees and this would leave a  
better looking result. He is worried about the looks  
of a heavily topped row of trees.

Probably the best arrangement would be to give  
him a fairly free hand as he won't know exactly

that he can do till' he gets up the trees.

He isn't worried about the holiday period. If the work is to be done it is better to do it earlier than later so that the new shoots have more time to ripen before the winter comes on. Two years ago we had the worst gale of the year in the last week of September - one never knows when they will come!

The Committee's <sup>main</sup> problem was safety of people in the Church Yard & of the Church. This would point to doing the job, again, sooner than later.

Mr Hogridge will drop wood on the path below the trees only - the rest he will drop into Michael's field.

and then push it <sup>into</sup> Michael's field & A rope could be put across from the west end of the Church to the bank to stop holiday makers & visitors using that path. Entry by the Seble gate would not matter. I think Mr Hogridge only comes in a small truck so parking is no problem.

My view is that we should do the job as soon as possible for the good of the trees.

Yours Sincerely, George



Copy: Lady Hall.  
Reg Kant.

24 June 85.

Treescape.  
Chapel Cottage.  
Charford.  
Avonwick.

Dear Mr. Mogridge,

This confirms my telephone call and message which I gave to your wife that the Parochial Church Council has agreed with your suggestions for dealing with the trees in the Church Yard. And also the Acacia and the top of the Copper Beach, at the end of the Church the Church Institute. They also agree your estimate.

The object is to:

To improve the trees in health and strength and so prolong their life.

To reduce any danger of the trees or branches falling on anyone or on the Church itself, and to reduce their windage.

To avoid as far as possible a row of bare and ugly tree trunks.

The work agreed to be done is:

To cut to ground level the rotten tree at the end of the Church.

To reduce the crown of the others by 20%.

To raise the crown of the trees by thinning side branches and larger stems and removing all growth overhanging Mr Capp's field.

To cut down the Acacia and thin the crown of the Copper beach.

To burn rubbish.

To stack suitable wood for fire wood so that we can cut it up and remove it later.

Mr Capps has kindly agreed to us dropping wood in his field and to burning rubbish. Please limit this use as much as possible.

Your estimate of \$200 to £220 for the Church Yard and £50 for the Acacia and Beach tree is accepted by the P.C.C., who also agree that you should use your discretion in dealing with the trees depending on their varying height and the state of their tops when you see them.

They are happy for you to do the job as soon as you can.

Mr Bob O'Brien was over here the other day advising on a tree planting programme for Ringmore and I told him of your advice for dealing with the trees and he agreed with it. He said you had done some jobs for him which had been very satisfactory. So we go ahead with confidence.

Yours Sincerely,

G. C. Grimshaw.

for  
Parochial Church Council.

P.S. You will of course take great care not to damage any of the tomb stones.