

Start on the path in the Northwest corner of the church yard



Church ruins

St Mary de Haura Tree Trail



END. We hope
you enjoyed
the trail

WARNING: Please be careful not to slip or trip as the ground can be uneven!

Bringing the heart of Shoreham town into contact with nature; Our trees absorb pollution and carbon dioxide; attract wildlife; absorb water to protect from flooding, provide shade; and reduce the air temperature in hot summers. This trail is a celebration of our churchyard trees and the need for people like you to continue caring for them. We hope you enjoy the trail.

1. **On your right is a beech tree.** The bird boxes were, kindly installed by SDOS Shoreham District Ornithological Society - Home (sdos.org). In May we welcomed nesting blue tits! **To find out more about Blue Tits check out blue tit | The Wildlife Trusts**
2. **While on the same path can you find the copper beech?** Distinctly recognisable by its dark red oval leaves. Male flowers hang like tassels and the female flowers grow in pairs surrounded by a cup. The nuts can be ground as a “coffee.” **Make a bark rubbing using wax crayons on paper placed against the tree trunk (Please never remove or damage bark which protects our trees from disease)**
3. **Stay in the north side of the churchyard to enjoy the turkey oak tree.** The ancient oak is the longest-lived tree in UK. it matures at 150 years and can live up to one thousand years. Oak trees have male catkin and female egg and cup shaped fruit, but acorns only appear after 60 Years of growth. The turkey oak has longer narrower leaves that look like turkey feet! An ancient oak tree can have a girth over 3.5m. **How many people are required to hug the full dimension of this tree (Adult arm span on average is approximately 150 CMS)?**
4. **In the north end of the church yard is the ash tree.** Its oval shaped green Leaves move towards the sunlight and fall even though still green. Ash leaves are made of 5-11 leaflets and grow from May onwards kindly allowing plants underneath it to grow first. Ash dieback is a threat to this magnificent tree. Note the Lichen (colony of algae) that grows on its bark. There are over 20,000 species of Lichen essential to the biodiversity of our planet. **Where else can you find Lichen growing in the churchyard?**
5. **Continue to the northeast corner to find one of several holly trees** that have dark leathery leaves. The lower part of the tree has spikey leaves to protect it and the nesting birds from other wildlife. If there are no red berries in September, the tree is a lone male. Look out for Thrushes and hedgehogs. **Holly is used as Christmas decoration symbolic of Jesus’ crown of thorns.**
6. **Head back along the path southwest towards the church ruins to see the poisonous yew tree.** The wood was historically used to make Bows. The brown dead leaves you can see, belong to an invasive ivy that has been cut to allow it to die and free the yew to grow. **If you have time why not pop into the church as the sun sets. The stain glass window images can (in the right conditions) be seen projected onto the inside glass door, creating an illusion of the images appearing in the trees and ruin outside.**
7. **Continue to the southwest corner of the churchyard (church street) to find the sycamore tree.** Introduced to the UK in the 15th Century They can live 250 years **Look up into the leaves and using a crayon/pencil and paper try to draw the complicated spaces between them- good luck 😊 or take a photo using your phone camera and save as a calming screen saver!**
8. **Follow the tarmacked path along the south side of the churchyard to walk under the lime (linden) tree Avenue.** The leaves are pretty, green hearts. The flowers, clusters of white /yellow petals. **Test your senses and see if you can smell the honey suckle like scent?**