

Trees for the Future.

Following BFPC's declaration of a Climate Emergency, later changed to a Climate and Ecological Emergency (CEE) in 2019, it was agreed that one of the best ways to respond to this in our small parish was to plant some trees to help with CO2 capture. The initial planting was achieved in March 2020, and has subsequently been added to, giving us a total of approximately 150 mixed species.

Forestry England has recently published a list of tree species it believes will best be able to survive future climate change which is likely to bring us more extremes of weather such as wetter winters and record-breaking heat waves. Happily, quite a few of our trees are on their list. They are:

- Pedunculate or English oak
- Beech
- Common alder
- Downy birch
- Silver birch
- Hornbeam
- Rowan
- Wild cherry

This is not to say that the other species we have planted will not survive, just that they may not adapt as well. They are:

- Sessile oak
- Hawthorn
- Hazel
- Sorbus
- Horse chestnut.

Hopefully, they'll defy the odds and flourish. Any future plantings could be from the list of favoured species.

Malcolm Fletcher

Parish Tree Warden, October 2025