

OPEN DAY PROGRAMME

ST MARGARET'S ALLOTMENTS

ST MARGARET'S CENTRE

ST MARGARET'S CHURCH

ST MARGARET'S CHURCHYARD

SUNDAY 6 JULY 2025

11.00 a.m.-5.00 p.m.

ADMISSIONS table (follow signs from any entrance)

CARDS AND CASH ACCEPTED.

Buy your ticket (or show your pre-ordered ticket) and get your wristband (£5, all proceeds to National Garden Scheme cancer nursing charities; children free).

Collect trails for families to follow.

Buy the brilliant souvenir booklet, only £3.50, full colour, recipes, tips, history, gardening, wildlife.

Talk to members who will be available to orient you and help you to get the best out of your visit.

Sign up for the specialised tour

13.30-14.30: Archaeology and history of the allotments, the churchyard and St Margaret's Church

Leaders: David Butler, Martin Roberts, and Posy O'Neill

Sign up for the Bioblitz in the churchyard (14.30)

REFRESHMENTS (11.00-16.00)

Old School Café (st Margaret's Centre)

Delicious cakes, pastries, sandwiches etc. available; hot and cold drinks. Cards and cash accepted.

TOILET FACILITIES in St Margaret's Centre (first floor), in Ye Old Elm Tree for pub customers, and in Riverwalk Shopping Centre (off Framwellgate Bridge).

ALLOTMENT VISITING

Explore independently and talk to plot-holders.

Don't miss

- ponds (e.g. plots 1, 16, 13, 27, 45B, 49B, 59B)
- spectacular flowers (e.g. plots 1, 3, 46)
- features to encourage wildlife (e.g. plot 26)
- St Margaret's Centre education allotment (plot 24)
- a no dig allotment (plot 49B)
- gardening on a slope (e.g. plots 59A, 59B, 75, 76, 77)
- DIY cages (e.g. plot 44)
- ideas for water storage (e.g. plots 59A)
- challenging plots tamed (e.g. plot 36A, 45, 59B)
- the best **VIEW** of the allotments (plot 58)

Find the **SCARECROWS**, note the number of the plot, and vote for the best on whiteboard on the Common Plot.

SHOPPING ON THE COMMON PLOT

BUY plants, jam, chutney, homemade cakes, fresh produce

BUY crafts and greetings cards by local artists Jenni Ulyatt, Ollie Burton, and Alison Gargett

BUY the brilliant souvenir booklet, only £3.50

BID for limited edition prints by Ollie Burton

MUSIC ON THE COMMON PLOT

12.00-12.45 Kathy Palmer (Northumbrian pipes)

Kathy will play traditional tunes and demonstrate and explain how the pipes function. Visitors are warmly invited to chat with her, and she will do her best to answer any questions about the tunes she has played, or about the pipes themselves.

13.00-13.45 Sloe Whisky Cowboys

Sloe Whisky Cowboys are a Country, Americana acoustic trio. John, Andy and Catherine perform a lively mix of original and classic songs.

14.30-16.00 The Cleveland and County Durham Branch of the Northumbrian Pipers' Society

Beautiful Sounds of the Northumbrian Smallpipes. The Cleveland and County Durham Branch of the Northumbrian Pipers' Society will play traditional and north eastern tunes such as Keel Row, Bobby Shaftoe, Jimmie Allen, Rothbury Hills, Come ye not from Newcastle and Keep Your Feet Still Geordie Hinny.

INFORMATION TABLES (COMMON PLOT)

Durham Wildlife Trust

Durham Wildlife Trust is a local charity that endeavours to restore wildlife and nature from the Tees to the Tyne. The Trust manages 50 reserves and has saved some of the North East's most special places from destruction..

Northumbria Branch: Dry Stone Walling Association

Northumbria Branch of the Dry Stone Walling Associations will have a Table with information and photos illustrating some of our work, and the Branch Chairman will be available to answer questions throughout the day.

Old Durham Gardens

Established more than 350 years ago, a restoration programme from the 1980s onwards has led to the laying out of the gardens with authentic period planting. The Friends of Old Durham Gardens now continue that restoration work, providing a charming public space for everybody to enjoy, less than a mile from Durham city centre and accessible via pleasant woodland or riverside walks.

Friends of St Margaret's Churchyard

An extensive churchyard of over six acres of green space, which has a rich history dating back many centuries, a valuable haven for wildlife and a place of peace and tranquility for local residents and visitors. The Friends of St Margaret's Churchyard aim to maintain and improve it and to lead research on its history and its graves.

Crook Hall Gardens (National Trust)

Characterful gardens on the edge of Durham city, set against the backdrop of a medieval hall.

GARDEN WASTE AND COMPOSTING TALKS, PLOT 44

- 11.30 Composting Methods (Pam José and Ann Tulloch)
12.30 Advanced Composting Methods (Pam José and Ann
 Tulloch).

ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORY

- 13.30-14.30: Guided walk around the allotments, the churchyard and
 St Margaret's Church (David Butler, Martin Roberts, and Posy
 O'Neill). Discover the history of the site as medieval quarry,
 fishponds and orchard and learn about the medieval church
 and its churchyard. Sign up on the Common Plot.

WILDLIFE ACTIVITIES

- 14.30 Bioblitz: plants, birds, insects and other minibeasts in the
 churchyard (Ruth Chambers, Val Standen, and others;
 rendezvous Common Plot)
16.00 Wildflowers on the allotments and in the churchyard:
 presentation by Dr Ambroise Baker, Teesside University
 (rendezvous Common Plot)

TRAILS FOR FAMILIES

Trail sheets from the admissions desk. Win a prize!

SCARECROW COMPETITION

Cast your vote by 16.00

Find all the scarecrows! Note the number of the plot each is on. Vote
at the admissions desk for the best one.

ST MARGARET'S CENTRE

St Margaret's Centre (open 11.00-16.00) is an activity and training hub for adults in County Durham who need support with their mental wellbeing. Its main aim is to improve the health and wellbeing of the community of County Durham by providing a safe, therapeutic environment for people to regain their confidence, motivation and self-esteem while learning new skills and meeting new friends.

Come and explore the centre's impressive workshops, which support people with their mental health through activities, groups, and structured volunteering.

11.00-16.00: OLD SCHOOL WOODCRAFTS (GROUND FLOOR)

Come and buy handmade homeware and gifts for your friends and family from the shop, showcasing the work of attendees at the Centre.

11.00-16.00: ALISON GARRETT, ARTIST (FIRST FLOOR)

Come and buy art work from a local artist. Alison takes inspiration from vivid and vibrant colours discovering how they complement and mix to create a visual experience, applying this theme to her abstract work along with general and floral subjects. Her floral work explores the use of colour, movement, sensory stimulation, changes in light and changes in seasonal variations.

12.00-15.00: ART AND CRAFT (CRAFT ROOM, 1ST FLOOR)

Bring your children to enjoy craft activities (must be accompanied by an adult, small charge for materials).

11.00-17.00: ST MARGARET'S CENTRE ALLOTMENT

Plot 24 is the St Margaret's Centre allotment, used for educational courses. Please come and visit it.

ST MARGARET'S CHURCHYARD AND ST MARGARET'S CHURCH

ST MARGARET'S CHURCH OPEN TO VISITORS (14.00-17.00)

This historic and beautiful church will be open to visitors, with members of the church available to talk to visitors about the building and its churchyard.

TOUR OF THE CHURCH AND THE CHURCHYARD

13.30-14.30: Guided walk around the allotments, the churchyard and St Margaret's Church (David Butler, Martin Roberts, and Posy O'Neill). Sign up on the Common Plot.

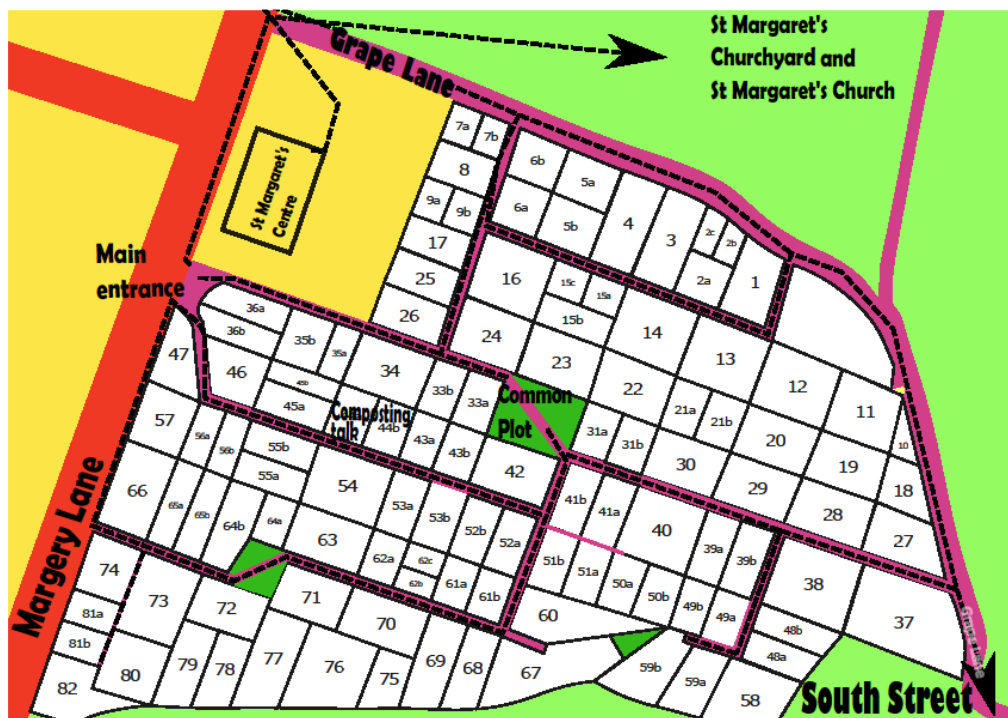
ST MARGARET'S CHURCHYARD (OPEN ANY TIME)

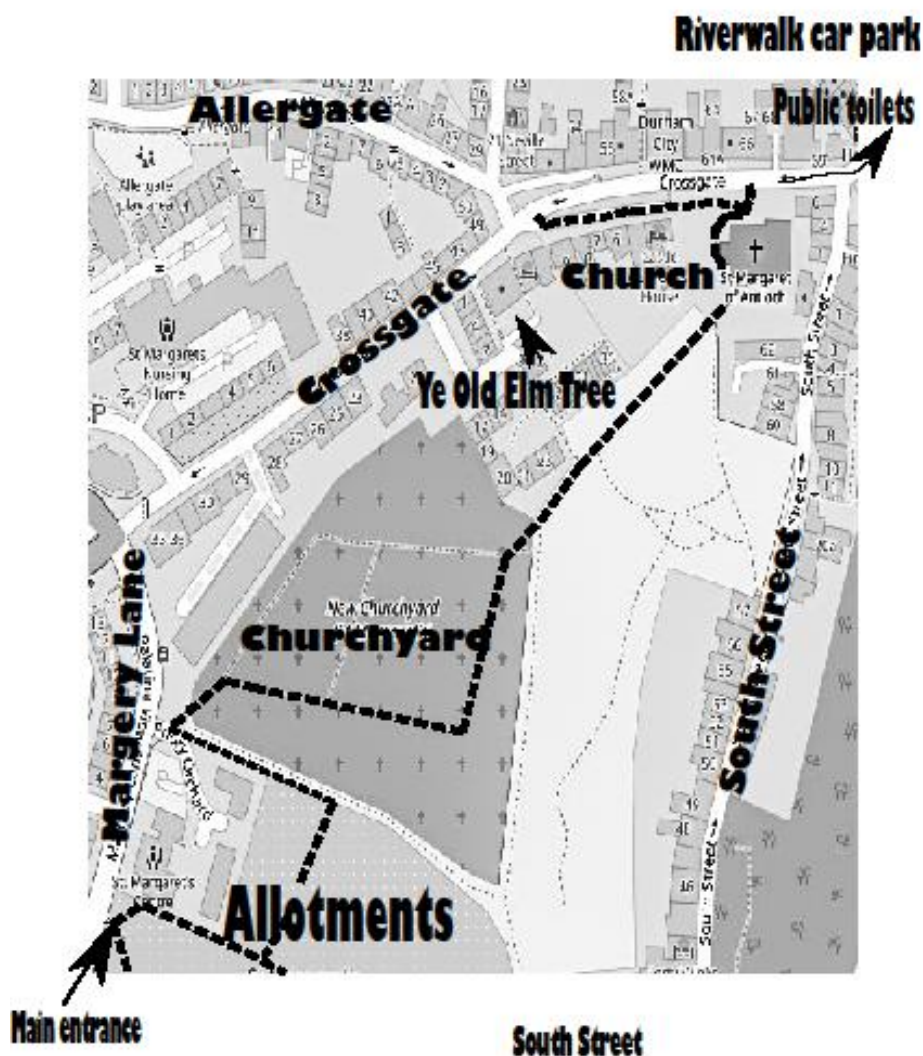
Come and explore this extensive churchyard of over six acres of green space, which has a rich history dating back many centuries. A haven for wildlife and a place of peace and tranquillity. Wildflower beds, memorial rose garden around the church. Includes Commonwealth War Graves and Memorials to the leaders of Durham Miners Association.

ALSO VISIT:

Friends of St Margaret's Churchyard information table (Common Plot)

ROUTES AROUND THE ALLOTMENTS AND TO ST MARGARET'S CENTRE, CHURCHYARD AND CHURCH





ST MARGARET'S CHURCH AND ST MARGARET'S CHURCHYARD

All ticket payments, and all purchases of craft goods, go to the National Garden Scheme for its cancer nursing and gardening charities.

All proceeds from Old School Café and Old School Woodcrafts go to support the St Margaret's Centre mental health charity.

All proceeds from the Plant, Produce, Jam and Chutney stall and from the sale of booklets go to St Margaret's Allotments Association to defray the costs of the open day event.

