

Subject: **The Managed Churchyard**
Medium: Acrylic
Size: 560mm x 300mm
Working Time: Not recorded
Completed:

Comments: The Yew tree (taken from nearby Carlton in Lindrick) branches and the ivy could have been laid out better, also the figure with the scythe would have improved if the scythe had projected into the image more.

Notes: **All Photographic research by the illustrator.**
Maltby : church and grave stone, Carlton in Lindrick: Yew tree from Carlton church, figure is Tony Cross of Blackpool's Pinewood Nurseries.

St. Bartholomew's, the church and grounds which form the backdrop to the study, lies on a belt of *magnesium limestone* in a mining town call Maltby, South Yorkshire. Once a small farming community close to the Nottinghamshire border, with a recorded average population from around the time of the *Doomsday* record to the beginning of the 20th Century of one thousand souls. All this changed when in 1907 *The Sheepbridge (Chesterfield) Coal & Iron Company* sank No.2 shaft at Maltby to extract coal from what was known as the '*Barnsley Seam*'. Maltby has become from a small farming village whose periphery still looking out onto the *12th Earl of Scarbrough's, Sandbeck Estate*, to the other end with an urban and industrial sprawl that extends to Sheffield. Although the *Barnsley Seam* was worked out by 1972, developing the deeper *Swallowwood Seam* and subsequent seams saved Maltby pit from closure after the 1984-85 miner's strike. In contrast to the vagaries of industrial upheaval, areas of common land to the south of the town in a valley with a stream bisecting (Maltby Dyke), give scope for the local flora and fauna to flourish. The colliery has left a more benign legacy, a wealth of allotments still clutter the area. Testifying to the quiet secluded nature of this valley lies further down stream, with the remains of Roche Abbey. The herringbone - patterned tower of St. Bartholomew dates from the time of the Norman conquest with a probable church site before that. Most of the remaining body of the church however, dates from 1859 when it was redeveloped in the *Gothic revival* style. ¹

Species list (excluding grasses)

Yew Tree *Taxus baccata*
Ivy *Hedera helix*
Daisy *Bellis perennis*
Self Heal *Prunella vulgaris*
Ribwort *Plantagna lanceolata*
Prickly Sow Thistle *Sonchus asper*
Lichens – *Diploicia canescens, Caloplaca teicholyta, Caloplaca heppiana*
Bryophytes (Mosses & Liverworts) *Tortula muralis* ?
Grater Plantain *Plantagno major*
Common Nettle *Urtica diocea*
Cat's Ear *Hypochaeris radicata*
Hogweed *Heracleum sphondylium*
Red Clover *Trifolium pratence*
Meadow Buttercup *Ranunculus acris*
Bramble *Rubus fruticosus* AGG.

¹ Aukland. Clifford The Growth of Township: Maltby's Story
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Illustration
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