

Churchyard Flooding

The church

The part of the church that floods is the W end of the N aisle. We are not certain whether the flooding is through the walls or whether it comes up through the floor as the pressure of the flood grows. With the building as it is currently “configured”, this doesn’t really matter, because the water drains away, and there is no lasting damage. BUT the lowering of the floor will change the hydrology, and it will be important **to try to alter the drainage so that the flood does not occur again.**



The first picture on the L shows water backed up against the NW corner of the church. The second picture shows what happens in the N aisle floor when the water level is raised outside. The third shows the course of the drain from the NW corner of the church to the tarmac outside the W door. Reconstituting this drain should cope with future flood flows.

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A wider solution to flooding in the churchyard

When the flooding became a significant problem around 5 years ago a working group was set up by the Parish Council to consider how the floods could be prevented. The broad conclusion was that it was important to divert the flood flow away from the ditch to the E of the footpath up the Knoll. The plan has been to capture the flood flow in the copse above the Church Field to the N of the footpath and channel the flow down an existing shallow gully. When the flood reaches the footpath, it will be diverted E above the current footpath and down to the E of the church.



In the above picture the flood flows are outlined in red, and the diversion is outlined in blue. The orange circles indicate where new diversions of the flood flow are situated.



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Current work

In March 2026 a grant was obtained through the Somerset Rivers Authority and the Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group supervised work at the upper end of the Church Field to insert what are technically known as in-field bunds and woody flow spreaders. Some of these are clearly visible from the footpath as you walk up the Knoll.



woody flow spreaders in the copse and in-field bunds in Church Field

In the autumn it is planned to complete this work by constructing a ditch / drain to run parallel with the footpath above the church in the Church Field.

