

Annual report on memorials in the churchyard and cemetery

The condition of all memorials in the churchyard and cemetery is checked visually, and the stability of every memorial is tested manually by being given a firm push. A written and signed report is presented to the Annual Meeting (p.753/14 refers).

1. Churchyard N of church: west side of path

Unauthorised vase has been moved to next to wall. PCC has been asked to regularise.
Townson family grave. Cross on plinth, 1.8m high on double kerbed grave; leaning slightly but solid.
1 slate headstone: James Oldacres d 1933, 1.44m, straightened 4/22.
1 granite plinth: G D Jarvis 1973, parents and brother; inscription added and refurbished 2009: solid.

2. Churchyard N of church: east side of path

5 kerbed graves. Banks to path re-graded 9/21 and now in good condition.
3 slate headstones: Clara Hollis d 1894, 1.38m; Thomas Collinton d 1874, 1.28m; Ann Godfrey 1873: all safe.
2 limestone slabs to Thomas & Clara Newbury; solid.
2 granite plinths: G Hollis 1964, solid; W & F Bream, leaning but solid. Hollows in this area should be levelled up.
1 desktop slab to C & C Middleton. 2 graves marked by stone vase holders.

3. Churchyard W of tower

2 stone vase holders marking graves. Inspection chamber covers are trip hazards and need to be re-set into ground.

4. Churchyard S of church: west side of line from centre window of the nave through copper beech and rowan trees to churchyard bank

Broken slabs have been set upright in ground along wall of *The Old Barn* and are safe.
Row 1 is now on W side of Community Hub extension.

Rows 1 - 3: 9 tall slate headstones. Mary Ann Bailey straightened 2023, but has developing vertical split.
James Oldacres d 1869. Tallest headstone on strong base. Leaning back 15° but solid. William and James & Mary Oldacres headstones set straight 9/21.
Row 4: 2 limestone & marble headstones, 2 sandstone & marble headstones, 2 granite plinths.
One inscription legible - Nevil Thompson d 1889. 1 sandstone is split, with top of memorial missing.
One limestone has broken off plinth and has been set in ground. All were stable and safe.
Granite plinths to Alcock family, Annie & Nevil Thompson Alcock could both be pushed over with effort, but are low and isolated.
Row 5: 6 slate headstones. All stable. Sarah Thompson would benefit from being set straight.
Row 6: 5 slate headstones. All stable. Maria Barber leaning 10° sideways – could be straightened.
Row 7: 4 slate headstones. All stable. Swithland slate slab to H Farmer 1794 has vertical split opened further by frost, but is still stable. Elizabeth Farmer & Maria Barber headstones would benefit from being set straight.

5. Churchyard S of church: east side of line as above

Row 8 (nearest copper beech): 2 granite plinths. K G Rogers 1998 tested and found to be solid; F Johnson 1986 solid.
Row 9: Grundy Vault. Restored in 1993 and in good repair; railings cleaned and re-painted 2002, now with paint flaking and rust bursting through. 1 small slate headstone William Cheshire 1866; stable.
Row 10: 3 slate and 1 carved sandstone headstones - all stable; Iliff vault – brickwork restored c.1995 and in good repair. Rails repainted 2002, two corner finials missing. Safe.
Row 11: 7 slate, 1 limestone, 1 sandstone headstone – top of cross split off, probably due to severe frosts.
Limestone off plinth but set in grass – solid. John Jesson 1861 solid. Mary Jane Tebbett solid.

6. Cemetery block 1: plots 1-42 (between churchyard bank and tarmac path)

23 granite plinths; 1 slate plinth; 3 sandstone plinths; 4 graves marked by vases.
Frederick Dobson d 1990. Tallest memorial - granite plinth 0.93m tall, solid.
3 granite plinths could be pushed over using force - D & A M Hunt; D & FWN Jones 1994; R Johnson 1976 – but would be unlikely to give rise to injury. A L & B Liddington now levelled up; could be pushed over. J D Wiseman 1999 sandstone plinth has been set into ground. D & O L Smith granite plinth could be wobbled but not pushed over.
All other memorials stable and in good repair. Ground round B A Smith needs levelling up.

7. Cemetery block 2: plots 48-95 (between tarmac path and cemetery fence)

Plot brought into use 2010. 2 granite plinths: E M & W H Towers, C W Bream both solid.
1 Carlton stone monolith; 17 granite monoliths; 4 wooden crosses. Some monoliths have attached granite blocks for vases and should not be confused with plinths.

8. Cremation burial plots 96-115

8 granite slabs, 1 slate slab all set in grass.

The above checks were carried out on 23rd April 2024 when the ground was wet.

Condition of memorials checked by:

C J Peat

on date: *12th April 2024*