

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

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; leaning 15° but stable.
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. Soil is eroding from beneath two double kerbed graves alongside the path.
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, solid.
1 desktop slab to C & C Middleton. 2 graves marked by stone vase holders.

3. 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.

Rows 1 - 3: 9 tall slate headstones. Mary Ann Bailey has vertical split developing due to frost damage - monitor.
James Oldacres d 1869. Tallest headstone on strong base. Leaning 15°. Tested and stable.
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, but are isolated.
Row 5: 6 slate headstones. All stable.
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 stable.

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

Row 8 (nearest copper beech): 2 granite plinths. K G Rogers 1998 could be wobbled but is safe; F Johnson 1986 stable.
Row 9: Grundy Vault. Restored in 1993 and in good repair; railings cleaned and re-painted 2002, now with rust bursting through paint on flat rails and at corners. 1 small slate headstone William Cheshire 1866; stable.
Row 10: 3 slate and 1 sandstone headstones - all stable; liiff vault – brickwork restored c.1995 and in good repair. Rails repainted 2002, one corner finial 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 – moves but could not be pushed over. John Jesson 1861 solid.
Mary Jane Tebbett levelled.

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

18 granite plinths; 1 slate plinth; 3 sandstone plinths, 2 wooden crosses.
Frederick Dobson d 1990. Tallest memorial - granite plinth 0.93m tall.
5 granite plinths could be tipped over easily - D & A M Hunt; A L & B Liddington; D & FWN Jones 1994; R Johnson 1976 – but were not tall enough to cause serious injury.
J D Wiseman 1999 sandstone plinth has been set into ground.
All other memorials stable and in good repair.

6. 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. Latter could be tipped over if deliberately pushed hard, but could safely be leaned on and was safe.
8 granite monoliths; 2 wooden crosses. Monoliths have attached granite blocks for vases and should not be confused with plinths.

7. Cremation burial plots 96-115

3 granite slabs, 1 slate slab.

The above checks were carried out on 7th May 2015 when the ground was moist.

Condition of memorials checked by: C J Peat on date: 7/5/2015