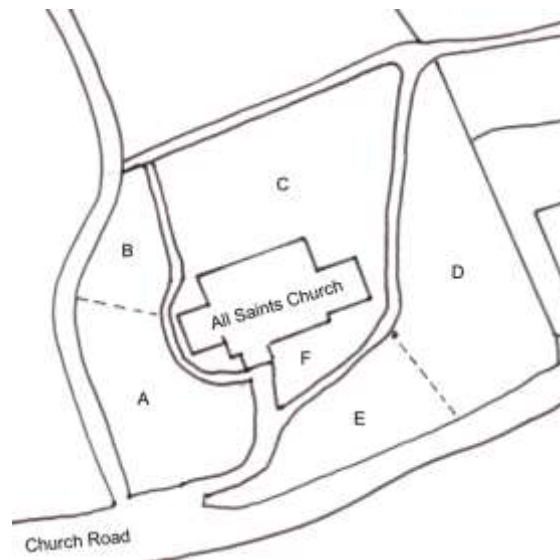


## Annual survey of memorials in the closed churchyard



The closed churchyard at All Saints Church has been divided into six areas, lettered A-F on the plan above.

Area A contains 7 rows of graves, mostly with slate headstone monoliths, all in good condition and facing E.

Granite cross to Joseph Blunt – solid.

1 granite headstone to Francis Marriott Browne from kerbed grave now laid flat.

3 old slate monoliths laid flat and partly on top of each other.

2 sandstone monoliths. All above stable and safe.

There are two small headstones leaning against the west wall of the church: TW 1899, and EK.

Area B contains 4 rows of slate headstones facing NE.

1 kerbed grave with quartzite cross to Emma Sarah Power – solid.

There is a tomb with railings removed adjacent to the church tower which needs straightening on its base.

Area C contains 17 rows of graves, some with inscriptions facing E and some W.

Quartzite cross to Edwin James Thorpe broken at base and unsafe: laid flat.

Quartzite cross to Susan Thorpe found to be unstable and dangerous: laid flat.

Ganite plinth to George Townshead Clarke 1974 wobbles but is stable at present.

Quartzite cross to Sgt SD J Jones 1918 found to be unstable and dangerous and propped against plinth.

Tall granite celtic cross to John Adcock Barrs near corner of church wobbles and needs monitoring.

Quartzite cross to Joseph Warne Barrs adjacent to above: cross wobbles and has been repaired in past and plinth has been displaced:monitor.

Broken slate monolith to William Godfer 1799 lying flat at edge of gutter.

Small slate monolith to RH lying flat next to N side of church.

Area D contains 4 rows of graves, mostly slate monoliths.

1 semi-kerbed grave to Samuel Slater 1929. 1 sandstone monolith.

Area E contains 9 rows of monoliths; 1 war grave; 1 small granite stone; 2 sandstone monoliths.

1 granite cross to Edward Knowles can be rocked but is stable at present.

Area F contains 6 rows of graves with slate headstone all in good condition.

This area is also being used for cremation burials, with modern granite tablets set flat in the grass near to historic upright slate monoliths and the church building.

In general, the appearance of the churchyard, with numerous standing slate headstones, complements the Grade II listed church building.

The brick gutters and retaining walls around the church are not in good condition and contain rubbish, pieces of masonry, some intact headstones and some damaged and broken headstones. It is regrettable that some slate headstones in Area A have been laid flat, and it is not clear why.

### **Recommendations**

1. It is important that regular monitoring be continued because of the number of tall and heavy memorials which are becoming unstable.
2. The person who erected a memorial is responsible for its maintenance, but it will now probably be difficult to trace the owners of the memorials found to be dangerous. Consideration will need to be given to the management of these structures: should the crosses be left lying in the grass; restored at public expense, or removed?
3. The appearance of the church building would be improved if the brick gutter around it was cleared of rubbish and stored materials and repaired.
4. I suggest that consideration be given to:
  - (i) re-erecting the intact slate headstones now lying flat in Area A as it is clear where they come from;
  - (ii) erecting the various complete headstones now lying or propped up around the church building in order to preserve them;
  - (iii) preserving the broken but historic headstones lying around the church building.

CJ Peat  
15<sup>th</sup> May 2024