



# Chelveston-cum-Caldecott Parish Council Northamptonshire Neighbourhood Development Plan



Michael Stephenson  
The Old Vicarage  
Caldecott Road  
Caldecott  
NN9 6AT

Ref: NDP-0201

2<sup>nd</sup> September 2014

Dear Michael,

Further to the discussions at the consultation evening last night, I have now been able to complete my informal survey of the churchyard. I have found 11 spaces in which I am fairly certain that there is no existing burial, based on the age of the surrounding graves. There is also potentially a whole row of another 8 to the left of the Violet Childs grave which doesn't appear to be disturbed.

Based on the records I have now seen, since 2004 we have been averaging just under 1 full burial a year. The spaces I have found would therefore give us over 20 years of space even if, as we expect, there is a greater demand owing to the aging population.

There are also potentially another 15 places under the trees near the wall separating the Churchyard from your paddock. Grant Brockhouse maintained that these must have been used over the years even where there are no grave markers. His view was that he was not prepared to take the risk of disturbing mortal remains. The new incumbent Richard Stainer may take a more pragmatic view of such spaces. If he does, then we could have nearly 40 year's capacity.

On Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> September, I am walking around the Churchyard with the Church Wardens to identify and agree the likely spaces, recording them in some document to save future debate. I was hoping that Richard Stainer will join us for that meeting but this looks unlikely.

I will be reporting the meeting with the Church Wardens back to the Parish Council on 8<sup>th</sup> September 2014. If the Church Wardens agree that the Churchyard is unlikely to be declared closed over the next 20 years, I will propose that the Parish Council no longer make provision for a cemetery extension. This will enable the Policy CEM to be withdrawn from the Neighbourhood Plan.

Regards

Cllr Adrian Dale  
Chairman  
Chelveston-cum-Caldecott Parish Council