



# Chelveston-cum-Caldecott Parish Council Northamptonshire



## Report on Churchyard Capacity St John the Baptist, Chelveston

### 1 Summary

In December 2011 the Parish Council and the Parochial Church Council formed a joint working party to establish the capacity of the Churchyard. Reports from the then Cllr Michael Foulger 10 years previously had suggested that there was only 10-15 years capacity remaining. On average, according to the Burial Register, only one burial and one interment of ashes have taken place each year since 2004. Given the age of the population in the Parish, this rate might increase in the coming 10-15 years, but will then level out again.

Our survey has shown there to be at least 54 spaces for full burials and plenty of space for the interment of ashes. On this basis, there is probably capacity in the existing Churchyard for **over 40 years**. There is therefore no reason for the Churchyard to be declared closed and no need for the Parish Council to make provision for the maintenance of the Churchyard or the provision of a new cemetery.

The Parish Council has begun to make provisions for a Churchyard extension in both its planning and finances. The conclusion of our work is that such provisions are **no longer required**. All references to an extension to the Churchyard could be removed from the Neighbourhood Plan 2015-2035. All accumulated reserves could be released.

### 2 Survey activity

In the Spring of 2012 large areas of the church yard were over grown and it was difficult to establish which areas might be free. These areas were cleared and it was possible to begin a detailed survey of the north side of the churchyard during the summer of 2012. The aim was to map known graves and then to commission ground penetrating radar to look for hidden burials.

Quotations from geophysical survey companies were sought and the cost for such a survey was estimated to be £1,000-£3,000 depending on the area surveyed and the level of detail required. However, all of the companies approached warned that stoney ground with extensive tree coverage would be very difficult to survey. There would be many false positives making the survey somewhat unreliable. Instead a manual survey was undertaken.




Photographs were taken by Caroline Knight of all 209 graves and a record was made of the legible inscriptions on them. The detailed coordinates of 87 of these graves were measured by Adrian Dale. Further work will be undertaken on the physical mapping but sufficient has now been done to identify spaces which are clearly empty.

A walking meeting took place with the Church Wardens on 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2014, during which all of the vacant spaces were pointed out. This report provides a record of these findings which will serve to help allocate plots in the future.




The Church Wardens will be recommending to the PCC that this report be adopted as policy.

Cllr Adrian Dale  
Chairman  
Chelveston-cum-Caldecott Parish Council

Empty locations in the Churchyard of St John the Baptist		
Location	Photograph	Capacity
Between the Baxter graves and the path		2
Between the Baxter and Smith graves near the Cross of Sorrow.		7

<p>On the right of the grass path approaching the Church near the Morris grave. Two rows of 6 graves near the yew tree.</p>		<p>12</p>
<p>To the left of the Corbett grave (reserved for a ex-church warden)</p>		<p>2</p>
<p>To the right of Olive Hill's grave</p>		<p>2</p>

<p>To the left of the Bridgeford grave behind Olive Hill</p>		<p>2</p>
<p>Two rows of 9 graves in front of the recent Palmer, Eady, Tysoe plots.</p>		<p>18</p>

<p>Between Tysoe and Palmer plots</p>		<p>1</p>
<p>To the left of the Derek Eady plot</p>		<p>2</p>
<p>To the left of Maria Mommersteeg</p>		<p>2</p>

<p>To the right of Ray Mary Hegarty's grave</p>		<p>2</p>
<p>To the right of the Commonwealth War Grave</p>		<p>1</p>
<p>To the right of Gerard Kendal</p>		<p>1</p>