Love your Churchyard

The Church of England around Staffordshire, northern Shropshire and the Black Country
Churchyard Issues
Common Problems

Boundary Wall Damage

Grounds Maintenance

Anti-social Use of Area

Dilapidated Memorials

Churchyard Issues

Diocese of Lichfield
Some Ideas – Maintenance

• Community Payback
Leigh All saints
Some Ideas – Maintenance

• Churchyard Group
Church Eaton S Editha
Some Ideas – Maintenance

• Sheep!
• Great Bolas S John
Wall Repairs

• Churchyards Closed for Burials – Responsibility of the local authority
Wall Repairs

• ‘Open’ Churchyards – maintenance and repairs are the PCC’s responsibility.
Dilapidated Memorials

Site set up to include creation of a secure site compound and heras fencing around the tomb.

Remove base stones, and site aside for re-use where possible. Examine underlying structure.
Ensure burials are protected from any falling debris.

Remove top stones, side faces and end panels. Set aside for repair and re-erection.

Repairs to internal walls of vault if required and possible insertion of concrete beam support if required.

Removal of surrounding rubble and paving slabs from around perimeter of tombstones. Salvage any original stones and set aside for re-use.
Anti-Social Uses

http://www.ecclesiastical.com/churchmatters
New Ideas – Swift Boxes

Plans for Swift Nest Boxes at Holy Trinity Church Oswestry

Diagram to show position of box

Slot through which swifts will enter

Slot through which the swifts will enter

Base board with entrance holes (30 x 65mm) to replace wire mesh
Board stained on underside
New Ideas– Small Things
Faculties and Law

Churchyard Rules and Regulations
Burials

• **Who can be buried?**
  – Anyone resident in the parish or on ER
  – Others by permission if space allows
    • ashes in graves
  – No personal ownership of grave space
  – Churchyard policy
    • other pastoral connections
    • reservation of graves by faculty
Burials

• Headstones and Memorials
  – According to Chancellors Regulations
  – By delegated permission of the Incumbent
    • outside the regulations: need a faculty
    • advice on words and images: Archdeacon
    • local “precedence”
    • memorials owned by the “family”
    • responsible for maintenance
Burials

• Headstones and Memorials
  – What to do if they get “dangerous”
  • Contact the Registry and get advice
  • Try to contact families
  • Get faculty approval for any works
  • Press and public interest
Burials

• Burial of Ashes
  – ABCR set up by faculty
  – Different practices
    • separate stone: central memorial
  – Regulation changes
    • can continue previous practice in same place
    • new ABCR – new rules by default
    • Pastoral reasons for retaining old practices
Burials

• **Communication**
  – Keep the churchyard tidy
    • notice of removals and working parties
  – Dog walkers
    • public place – keep clean
  – Memorial Owners
Maintenance

• Incumbent and PCC
  – Churchyards are not municipal cemeteries
  – Maintenance appropriate to context
  – Faculty Rules
    • Lists A and B and full faculty
    • What can be introduced or removed
    • Trees, benches, walls etc.
    • applies even in closed churchyards
Maintenance

• **Finance and Fees**
  – Churchyard Fund
  – Fees for burials, monuments etc
  – No extra fees can be charged

• **Notice Boards**
  – List B
  – Keep up to date
PCC Policy

• What it might contain
  – Policy on reservation
  – Who is allowed
  – ABCR and other practices
  – Regular clearance of items
  – Outline maintenance schedule and contract
Churchyards as a Mission Resource
THE NATURE OF GOD'S ACRE

Miles King and Mark Betson
With The Nature of God's Acre Project Team
Foreword by The Rt Revd Dr Martin Warner, Bishop of Chichester
% by frequency of visit

- Every day
- > twice/week
- Weekly
- Monthly
- Annually
- Variable
% by main reason for visit

- Visit church (worship): 27%
- Enjoy peace: 19%
- Enjoy nature: 14%
- Visit grave: 13%
- Contemplation/prayer: 10%
- Out for walk: 9%
- Visit church (other): 7%
Other insects

Moss and fungi

Trees

Butterflies

Birds

Wildflowers

% by most eyecatching wildlife

28

23

16

16

9

8
Welcome
We're all dead here.
CHURCHYARD AWARDS SCHEME

FOR CHURCHYARD/GARDENS IN THE LICHFIELD DIOCESE

ALSO NATURE FRIENDLY AWARDS
ENTRANCE, GATES & NOTICE BOARDS
PATHS & GRASS
GRAVES
&
CREMATED REMAINS
TREES & TIDYNESS
NATURE FRIENDLY