

## **Closed Churchyard Report**

Where a Church of England churchyard is closed to further burials in accordance with an Order in Council under the Burial Act 1853, responsibility for maintenance may, at the request of the Church, be transferred to the relevant local authority (Parish Council first and then Borough Council). The transfer is compulsory, not dependent on the condition of the churchyard in question, and not dependent on the local authority's ability to meet the additional maintenance costs.

The legislation requires a short time of statutory notice (3 months) although our policy is always to request an informal 12-month period to allow for suitable budgeting decisions. Quinquennial inspection reports are given to us by the Diocese.

Swale currently has 21 Closed Churchyards which are listed below. We also have 10 War Memorials that the Council is responsible for maintaining.

Urgent health and safety related works are covered under the Council's ongoing revenue budget; however, inspections often reveal works that could be undertaken to prevent future serious issues or to ensure heritage and conservation considerations are protected. These latter works often require specialists and are expensive. Recent inspections have shown possible works totalling over £1m.

We are aware that there is a growing interest of volunteers to support their local community areas. Therefore, we are looking at opportunities to have 'Days of Action'. You may already have links to groups that are interested or use your engagement to promote opportunities

If you are interested in supporting this programme of works, please contact [parks@swale.go.uk](mailto:parks@swale.go.uk) stating the churchyard you are interested in.

### **Churchyards**

- St Mary of Charity, Faversham
- St Peter's & St Paul's, Newnham
- St Peter's and St Paul's, Ospringe
- St Peter & St Paul, Lynsted
- Lynsted Burial Grounds
- Holy Trinity Burial Grounds, Sheerness
- St Catherine's Faversham
- All Saints, Graveney
- St Peter & St Paul, Boughton-under-Blean
- Murston Churchyard
- St Peter & St Paul, Borden
- St Michael & All Angels, Hartlip
- Holy Trinity, Milton
- All Saints, Iwade
- St Michael's, Sittingbourne
- Holy Trinity, Queenborough
- Holy Trinity, Sheerness
- Minster Abbey
- North Road, Queenborough
- Union Road, Minster-on-Sea

- Love Lane, Minster

### **War Memorials**

- Sittingbourne War Memorial, Central Avenue
- High Street Queenborough War Memorial
- Stone Street, Faversham
- Sheerness, Bridge Road
- Murston Memorial, Church Road
- St Peter's & St Paul's Ospringe War Memorial
- Milton Memorial Holy Trinity Church
- Borden memorial, St Peters and St Pauls Church

### **Other significant memorials**

- Eastchurch Aviation War Memorial
- Gunpowder Memorial, Love Lane, Faversham