



Old Stuckton Chapel

Proposed Memorial Relocations

Detailed Information Pack

1st September 2025

Addendum for additional memorial added 8th October 2025

Version 1.1

burialground@stuckton.com

Introduction

This document accompanies the notice (included in Appendix A) of the intention to relocate memorials at the Old Stuckton Chapel graveyard, near Fordingbridge. It provides background information and details of the plans, including proposals for relocating a limited number of memorials on the site.

A Brief History

The congregational chapel in Stuckton was opened on Tuesday the 16th of September 1856; its establishment was through the determined efforts of the Reverend Thomas Grant, a non-conformist preacher with a flair for rallying support. After being evicted from an earlier chapel site in Hungerford – despite it having been gifted to him – Grant turned his attention to Stuckton. With donations from across England and even as far as India, he secured the land and oversaw the construction of the new chapel. Reverend Grant himself is buried in the graveyard.

The Chapel flourished for 150 years, with a regular attendance of 85-100 documented in the early 20th century, and over 300 on special occasions such as the 1956 centenary celebration. Over the later part of the last century and the start of the 21st, like many churches, the congregation diminished, and regular services sadly ceased in 2016.

In common with many congregational churches, in 2004 the trustees of the Stuckton Chapel recognised the challenges with continuing to hold the Chapel in trust themselves and decided that the trusteeship would be transferred to the Evangelical Fellowship of Congregational Churches (EFCC). The EFCC Trust Corporation plays an important practical role in supporting a vision of ‘exalting Christ and growing healthy churches’. The Trust Corporation acts as a corporate trustee for many churches and handles the legal and financial matters that underpin the spiritual work of the fellowship.

Following the cessation of regular services, alternative uses were sought for the chapel. This included being used as the base for the Stuckton Adventure Centre, who gained planning permission in 2018 to convert the chapel into a Christian Outdoor Centre, incorporating replacement of the rear and side extensions as part of a significant improvement to the building. Ultimately this reuse was not viable, and the Chapel and the building was placed on the open market in 2024.

Future Intentions

The redundant Chapel and surrounding land have been purchased in 2025 by a local couple, who are keen to preserve the heritage and respect the past of the Chapel building and the graveyard, whilst bringing the building back into use – transitioning it to a new long term sustainable future. If possible, their goal is to gain planning permission to change the use to a single residential property, for occupancy by them and their family.

Whatever the future of the building, it is important that the graveyard is treated with reverence and respect, and that the remains and memorials contained within it are protected. The proposals laid out in this document aim to deliver exactly that, through a carefully considered scheme to create two defined, fenced off, graveyard areas and moving a limited number of memorials, creating a separate open space that can be used in association with the future use of the building. Critically, the intention, plan and proposals are that:

- No remains are to be disturbed – only the memorials are to be relocated.
- No buildings will be erected on any ground previously used for burials.
- The changes are to enable both hard and soft landscaping of the resulting space, in association with the future use of the building.
- All the memorials will be in two dedicated graveyard areas, maintained by the owners and open to the public.

This document is designed to support the legal aspects of the proposed change, and to demonstrate a respectful and considerate handling of the graveyard.

Status of the Graveyard

Being a non-conformist church, the graveyard is not consecrated ground administered under the faculty jurisdiction of the Church of England; nor is it local authority owned like the newer area on the eastern side of the Stuckton Cemetery further along Stuckton Road, nearer Fordingbridge. It is therefore a private burial ground, on private property. From a legal perspective, the key relevant legislation is the Disused Burial Grounds (Amendment) Act 1981, itself an act to amend the Disused Burial Grounds Act 1884.

Before marketing the redundant church, during the summer of 2024 the EFCC went through the process of closing the burial ground, and seeking associated representations from the public, particularly those still visiting graves.

During the closure process, graves in two parts of the graveyard were recognised as still being actively visited; the EFCC has retained ownership of the land in these areas to ensure enduring access. Thus, while the new owners own the unrestricted freehold of most of the site and all the building, they have a long lease for the two parts of the cemetery retained by the EFCC, with associated controls on its use.

The following map shows the overall site marked by the red line, with the two leasehold areas (and thus retained by the EFCC) of graveyard marked in blue.



FB

LB

The Old
Post House

Church

1
2

The Old
Bakery

0m 5m 10m 15m

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High Level Proposal

The new owners are keen to preserve the heritage of the chapel building and the graveyard, and ensure enduring respect is shown for both those interred in the burial ground, and those who wish to visit. With the scattered nature of the memorials around the property, this does create a challenge to provide suitable open space to allow the building to be brought back into use and ensuring it has a long-term sustainable future.

The proposal is thus to relocate a limited number of memorials from sparsely used parts of the graveyard to two larger designated and dedicated areas, which can be set aside and opened to the public. These would be based on significantly extending the existing areas leased from the EFCC, to incorporate additional land of the new owners.

This will create two graveyards that contain all the memorials, that are open to the public, maintained by the new owners, and directly accessible via dedicated gates from the public footpath to the north of the property. The building and its immediately surrounding land would thus not contain any memorials and can be hard and soft landscaped in line with the new use of the building.

It is planned and explicitly intended that no remains will be disturbed. Specifically, only the particular memorials outside of the proposed areas will be relocated into the areas.

No buildings will be erected on any of the ground that has been used for burials. The changes are to enable the use of the resulting space for the future use of the building, limited to hard and soft landscaping, and associated fencing or similar.

The resulting two graveyard areas will be fenced, forming clearly defined graveyard areas. The target is also to include an 'interpretation board' in the larger of the two areas, providing history of the chapel for visitors.

It is intended that this will provide both a well maintained and generous area for both locals and visiting relatives to access, visit the memorials, and see the graveyard in the context of the chapel building and its heritage. This proposal ensures that access is easy, simple and separated from the future use of the building.

The following map shows the overall site marked, with the two proposed graveyards areas containing all the memorials, marked in purple.



FB

LB

The Old
Post House

Church

1
2

The Old
Bakery

0m 5m 10m 15m

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Process

The movement of the memorials and associated changes to the burial grounds are governed by the Disused Burial Grounds (Amendment) Act 1981. The new owners are committed to ensuring the community are engaged in the future of the building and graveyard, and keen to demonstrate they are actively seeking to maintain the heritage and treat all graves with the reverence and respect they deserve.

Representations should be made within 2 months of the notice, 31st October 2025. Whilst these are intended to be from personal representatives or relatives of the deceased commemorated by these memorials, all representations will be considered.

Representations should be made via:

Email to

burialground@stuckton.com

Post to

Proposed Burial Ground Changes
Old Stuckton Chapel,
Stuckton Road,
Stuckton,
Fordingbridge,
SP6 2HE

All feedback is welcomed!

Detailed Plan

The following plan underpins the proposal and is used to define the memorials affected by the change. The graveyard has been categorised into the following areas:

Area	Map Colour	Proposal
A	Dark Purple	Unchanged and accessible – EFCC retained graveyards.
B	Light Purple	Newly defined and accessible graveyards – existing memorials unchanged, moved memorials relocated to these areas.
C	Blue	Minor changes – memorials are rotated 180 degrees and moved 1.8m or less, to form part of newly defined graveyards.
D	Green	Memorials removed from this space and relocated to ‘B’ areas.

These areas are defined in the following map:



FB

LB

The Old
Post House

D

C

B

1

2

The Old
Bakery

D

Church

A

B

A

B

0m 5m 10m 15m

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The memorials primarily affected by this proposed change are in the areas marked D. These are currently sparsely spread, and the removal of these memorials to the other (B) areas allows the creation of open space that can be used in association with the future use of the building. Ultimately no memorials will remain in the areas marked D, with each one carefully moved to new locations in the nearby graveyard areas marked B.

Five memorials are in the area marked 'C', which will form the edge of the new and open graveyard areas. These will each be rotated 180 degrees so they face within the new graveyard, rather than in their current orientation in which they would be unreadable up against the new fence for the graveyards. They will also be moved up to 1.8 meters to ensure they are fully within the newly defined graveyard areas.

No memorials in areas A or B will be affected by these changes.




All work to move the memorials will be carried out with due care and respect, ensuring they are preserved and their condition improved wherever possible. This will include ensuring all are suitably fixed upright in a secure and safe fashion.



To reiterate, no remains will be disturbed.



On a case-by-case basis, unmarked kerb stones may be set aside; this is described in detail on a per memorial basis in the next section.




Memorial Details

The following table lists the details of each individual memorial that will be moved as part of these proposals. Column 1 is the memorial number for this proposal, also used to label locations on the map following the table. Column 2 a locator reference that relates to a previous survey by Hampshire Genealogical Society in 2009; where the inscriptions are now illegible, the records from this survey have been used.

#	Ref:	Picture	Inscription & Notes
AREA D – IN FRONT OF CHAPEL			
1	C-A-1		<p>Inscription: In loving memory of Susan Bush who passed away 31st Aug. 1941 aged 78 years Also her beloved husband Jacob Bush who passed away 25th Feb. 1942 aged 84 At Rest.</p> <p>Additional Notes: The proposal is to relocate the main stone with the inscriptions, removing the kerbstones and setting them aside.</p>
2	C-B-1		<p>Inscription: In memory of John E Scammell 1872 – 1948 Also his wife Catherine Mary 1870 – 1950</p> <p>Additional Notes: With no headstone, the inscriptions are on the kerbstones. The proposal is therefore to relocate the kerbstones in the current configuration, with a stone infill.</p>
3	C-D-1		<p>Inscription: In loving memory of George and Tamer Bush and their son Walter.</p> <p>Additional Notes: The pot is not fixed and may not have originally been on this memorial. The text is around the base of the lower stone, which will be set above the grass line on its relocation to make it easier to see and read.</p>

4	C-D-2		<p>Inscription:</p> <p>In loving memory of Rev. John Baines died May 17th 1951 And of Mary Jane Baines his beloved wife died Oct. 25th 1951 Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on thee</p> <p>Additional Notes:</p> <p>The proposal is to relocate the main stone with the inscriptions, and remove the kerbstones setting them aside, as not inscribed.</p>
5	C-D-3		<p>Inscription:</p> <p>In loving memory of Sarah Ann the beloved wife of Joseph W. Sweetland who fell asleep in Jesus May 18th 1915 aged 57 years Peace perfect peace</p> <p>Additional Notes:</p> <p>The inscription on the stone has limited legibility.</p>

6	C-D-4		<p>Inscription: In loving memory of Emily Curtis at rest 15th April 1926 Aged 61</p> <p>Additional Notes: The memorial was found buried beneath undergrowth and soil in the front hedge, unfixed and thus it may not be in its original position. It has not been captured in any previous surveys of the graveyard, and thus likely to have been covered for more than 20 years.</p>
7	C-E-1		<p>Inscription: In loving memory of George Kenchington. who died March 13 1875 aged 68 years <i>{Lightly inscribed biblical verse not readable – appears to reference walking through the valley of death}</i> In Loving remembrance of Hannah Kenchington wife of the above who died December 14 1864 aged 79</p> <p>Additional Notes: The lower portion of this memorial is mostly illegible; the Hampshire Genealogical Society survey from 2009 has been used to inform the record of the inscription.</p>

8	C-E-2		<p>Inscription: To the memory of Sofiah White who departed this life Sep 22. 1868. aged 60.</p> <p>Additional Notes: The memorial was found deeply embedded in the front hedge, unfixed and thus it may not be in its original position. It has not been captured in any previous surveys of the graveyard, and thus likely to have been covered for more than 20 years.</p>
24	C-E-3		<p>Inscription: In loving memory of Alice M. Bush May 1955.</p> <p>Additional Notes: The memorial was found very recently buried beneath undergrowth and soil in the front hedge, unfixed and thus it may not be in its original position. It has not been captured in any previous surveys of the graveyard, and thus likely to have been covered for more than 20 years. Note the reference number is out of sync (24) due to only just being discovered.</p>
25	C-C-1		<p>Inscription: Jennifer Motie 1938 – 2009 Beloved mother, sister, nana, aunt and friend</p> <p>Additional Notes: This memorial was found with kind help of the Motie family; it is flush with the ground level, but easily overgrown. We are actively discussing with the family the best future location for this memorial.</p>

AREA D – TO REAR OF CHAPEL

9

B-A-1



Inscription:

In memory of Albert J. Scammell 1898-1962

Additional Notes:

The memorial is heavily overgrown, and the kerbstones are unlevel and separated in places. It is adjacent to existing drainage systems including the septic tank. With no headstone, the inscription is on the kerbstones; the proposal is to relocate the kerbstones in the current configuration, with a stone infill.

10

B-B-0







Inscription:

None identified



Additional Notes:

This is believed to be a memorial, but there is no inscription other than 'RIP' letters at the top as part of its cast shape.

11	B-B-1		<p>Inscription: In loving memory of Alexander Parker died Feb. 18. 1927 aged 66 Safe in the arms of Jesus.</p> <p>Additional Notes: The stone is currently flush with ground level and quickly overgrown. The proposal is to set it slightly proud of ground level when relocated, ensuring it always remains visible.</p>
12	B-C-1		<p>Inscription: Erected to the memory of John Chafen born 11th June 1802 died 16th November 1879 Also of Maria his wife born 27th February 1805 died 20th November 1871 Jesus said I go to prepare a place for you. Together slumber side by side as aged pair in peace they died. Together once more will they rise to praise their Saviour in the skies.</p> <p>Additional Notes: The lower portion of the memorial epitaph text has limited legibility, and thus there may be minor errors in the text – specifically the word slumber is questionable.</p>

13	B-D-1		<p>Inscription: In loving memory of Albert Edward Cheater called home 23rd Dec. 1969 aged 70 also his dear wife Ada Emily Cheater called home 25th May 1987 aged 89. Saved by grace alone</p> <p>Additional Notes: <i>None</i></p>
14	B-E-1		<p>Inscription: In loving memory of William Dunn who died Dec. 22nd 1871 aged 51 years Also of Harriet wife of the above who died Sept. 11th 1881 aged 58 years Jesus said unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life, no man cometh unto the Father but by me.</p> <p>Additional Notes: <i>None</i></p>

15	B-E-2		<p>Inscription: In loving memory of our dear mother Amelia Ann Holley who fell asleep March 20th 1899 aged 68 years A little while and ye shall not see me: and again a little while and ye shall see me, because I go to the Father. St John 16:16</p> <p>Additional Notes: None</p>
16	B-F-1		<p>Inscription: Thy will be done In loving memory of Elizabeth Sargeant who died March 5 1895 aged 76 years Also of Sarah the beloved wife of Alfred George Viney and daughter of the above who died Dec. 15 1895 aged 55 years</p> <p>Additional Notes: None</p>

17	B-F-2		<p>Inscription: Peace In loving memory of Elizabeth Kate Frowd who entered into rest Dec. 20th 1889 aged 34 years Also Frederick Frowd husband of above who entered into rest March 23rd 1931 aged 76 also of three infants Thy will be done</p> <p>Additional Notes: The proposal is to relocate the main stone with the inscriptions, removing the kerbstones which are not inscribed, and setting them aside.</p>
18	B-G-1		<p>Inscription: In loving memory. John Wort. Died February 18. 1949. Aged 84 years. Rose Wort. Died January 9. 1911. Aged 38 years. Kate Maria Wort. Died February 6. 1897. Aged 32 years. <i>(Further stone beneath headstone)</i> In loving memory of Robert Wort died 7th June 1970 aged 63 years.</p> <p>Additional Notes: The proposal is to relocate the main stone and second further stone beneath the headstone, while removing the kerbstones which are not inscribed, and setting aside. The headstone and second further stone beneath would be kept in existing juxtaposition.</p>

AREA C – IN FRONT OF CHAPEL – ROTATE & REPOSITION ONLY

19 A-D-1



Inscription:

In dear memory of Donald Arthur Wort 1917-1992
Blessed is the man whose delight is in the law of the Lord

Additional Notes:

The proposal is to rotate the memorial 180 degrees and relocate it no more than 1.8 meters from existing position; this is to ensure it will be easily readable inside the newly defined graveyard.

20 A-D-2






Inscription:

In dear memory of George Stephen Wort 1883 – 1960
And his wife Ethel Kate 1884 - 1969

Additional Notes:

The proposal is to rotate the memorial 180 degrees and relocate it no more than 1.8 meters from existing position; this is to ensure it will be easily readable inside the newly defined graveyard.

21	A-D-3		<p>Inscription: In loving memory of Mary A. Lewis who entered into rest September 25th 1923 aged 85 years. Also John Lewis who fell asleep April 5th 1925 aged 84 years</p> <p>Additional Notes: The proposal is to rotate the memorial 180 degrees and relocate it no more than 1.8 meters from existing position; this is to ensure it will be easily readable inside the newly defined graveyard.</p>
22	A-D-4		<p>Inscription: In loving memory of dear Will the beloved son of Charles and Margaret Lewis. who entered into rest Sept 11. 1907 aged 24 years Absent from the body present with the lord. Also of 3 infants <i>{Additionally in bottom right corner}</i> H. Soper & Co Sarum.</p> <p>Additional Notes: The proposal is to rotate the memorial 180 degrees and relocate it no more than 1.8 meters from existing position; this is to ensure it will be easily readable inside the newly defined graveyard.</p>

23	A-D-5		<p>Inscription: In loving memory of Edith Margaret Zebedee 1897 – 1993 When for a while we part, the thought will sooth our pain, that we shall still be joined in heart, and one day meet again</p> <p>Additional Notes: The proposal is to rotate the memorial 180 degrees and relocate it no more than 1.8 meters from existing position; this is to ensure it will be easily readable inside the newly defined graveyard.</p>
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Memorial Locations

The following map shows the existing location of each individual memorial that would be moved as part of these proposals. The numbers reflect those in the first column in the above table.

The final position of memorials following the proposed moves area not yet confirmed, other than being within the defined areas described in the diagrams. The positioning of individual memorials in their new areas will be based on either representations from relatives, or else in a manor to maximise their accessibility and visibility.





Old Stuckton Chapel

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO RELOCATE MEMORIALS

Pursuant to the **Disused Burial Grounds (Amendment) Act 1981**, notice is hereby given of the intention to relocate a limited number of memorials within the burial ground surrounding the old Stuckton Congregational Church, located at Stuckton Road, Fordingbridge, Hampshire, SP6 2HE.

The purpose of this action is to create two, large, designated areas of accessible cemetery, conserving access to memorials, and ensuring a respectful and functional space.

In accordance with the provisions of the Act:

- A record of the affected memorials, including inscriptions and locations, has been prepared and is available for public inspection at:
<https://burialground.stuckton.com/>
- Personal representatives or relatives of the deceased commemorated by these memorials who wish to make representations regarding their relocation may do so in writing to burialground@stuckton.com, or via post to the church address above, within **two months** of the date of this notice.
- The relocation will be conducted with due care and respect, ensuring all memorials are appropriately preserved and repositioned within the cemetery.

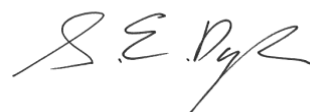
For further information or to raise any concerns, please contact Simon Daykin at burialground@stuckton.com.

Dated:

1st September 2025

Signed:


Simon Daykin



Old Stuckton Chapel – Proposed Memorial Relocations

Addendum – Additional Memorial – 8th October 2025

An additional memorial has been uncovered to the rear of the chapel, buried under the soil for a significant period. This is not included in any of the previous surveys of memorials, including the comprehensive 2009 Hampshire Genealogical Society Survey. The proposal is to move this memorial (along with the others at the rear of the chapel as previously described) to the area marked 'B' on the map, adjacent to the Commonwealth War Grave. The details of the memorial are as follows:

#	Ref:	Picture	Inscription & Notes
AREA D – TO REAR OF CHAPEL			
24	B-D-0		<p>Inscription: In loving memory of Patricia Beale Née Robinson 1933 – 1982 Called Home</p> <p>Additional Notes: This memorial was uncovered below the soil and had been buried for many years. When relocated, the proposal is to site it slightly proud of ground level to ensure it does not get lost/covered again.</p>

The location is as follows:

