

# **DAC SITE VISIT REPORT**

(26.14d) **Hadstock, St Botolph (Grade I)**

**2<sup>nd</sup> October, 2018**

Present:	Archdeacon Robin King	<i>St Botolph's, Hadstock</i>
	Mr Malcolm Woods – DAC	Revd Paula Griffiths – Associate Priest
	Mr Peter Richards – DAC	Mr Tim Boyden – Hadstock PCC
	Mrs Brenda Watkin - DAC	Mr Malcolm Seward - Hadstock PCC

## **A visit had been requested to advise on plans for an area for cremated remains in the churchyard**

An extension to the churchyard came into use and was consecrated in 2008. Since then there have only been six burials and no interments of ashes. However the PCC would like to anticipate the time when they do have a request for the burial of ashes and therefore want to set aside a delineated area for this purpose.

There are options of placing the plot along the north, south and east sides of the extension. A plot in the centre of the area was thought inappropriate by everyone present – but there is plenty of choice for the PCC. The only real restriction is the gate (with right of access for the PCC) in the SW corner and the need for vehicular access along the south edge.

Questions for the PCC:

How are they going to delineate the ashes plot? Whatever the PCC decides needs to be in keeping with character of a rural churchyard.

Do they want to allow the individual plots to be marked by stone plaques (of similar size and stone)?

Would mini-headstones (as used in Broxted churchyard) be an alternative?

The extension is quite large and exposed - should the area be broken up with some strategic tree planting?

On the N side of the old churchyard, overlooking the extension is a yew and a sycamore tree. It was suggested that the PCC invite David Carmichael (the DAC tree adviser) to have a look at the sycamore to see if it could come down, allowing the yew a bit more space to flourish.

We also looked at a number of old headstones that have been leaning up against the church walls for some years now. The architect is concerned that they impede ventilation and drainage at ground level and we saw no reason why they shouldn't be moved and placed in a number of alternative locations elsewhere in the churchyard.

**Robin King - Archdeacon of Stansted.**

**3<sup>rd</sup> October, 2018.**

*This report does not bind the full meeting of the DAC to the findings of the Sub-Committee, but is offered as an aide-memoire to all concerned as to what took place at the meeting. If there are any material corrections to be made to the report, please contact the Archdeacon's office.*

*Please note: this report will inform the decision making process of the DAC, but it does not constitute, nor bind, a decision of the full DAC to support the proposals. Final approval for work that requires a Faculty is granted by the Diocesan Chancellor. It is possible that, in addition to Church approvals, secular consents may be required (for example, if planning permission is needed). Please also note that the DAC do not have the authority to grant custodian trustee approval from the Diocesan Board of Finance. Should your proposed works require this, please consult with your Archdeacon.*

Circulation: Those present, Sandra Turner (DAC Secretary)