

Health & Safety Report 2019 – 2020

There are no recorded incidents for the 2019 to 2020 period, however, it is still a requirement of our insurers that we provide risk assessments for all activities in the church building and churchyard. It was commented during the last visitation that we were the only church in the deanery to have provided risk assessments, this does not mean they are not necessary.

The health and safety concerns that are current;

- Access doors to the north side of the church building have continued to be difficult to lock, unlock, open and close due to poor installation, ingress of moisture and protection for the elements. These doors are emergency exits and there should not be any problem with opening and closing them. However unlikely an emergency may seem these doors need to operate effectively.
- Cleaning of the glass doors and screen is not effective due to access. I would not promote the use of ladders due to the base area restrictions at the entrance to the chancel from the knave preventing safe use. Should someone fall from a ladder inside the church building they will definitely fall on hard ground causing the body to absorb the impact leading to serious trauma. An alternative method of cleaning or the use of a subcontractor should be considered.
- The churchyard is an area of trip and fall hazards due to the incomplete work of the headstone project. There are many stones and holes left in the churchyard as a result of the incomplete project presenting hazards to visitors and workers in the churchyard.

Risk assessments are required for all activities and should follow a standard format. An assessment for the headstone project was requested but none has been received to date and this is concerning due to the use of mechanised machinery used for digging and lifting the headstones. If machinery is being used in the churchyard the operator also needs to provide a copy of their public liability insurance. Should there be an accident causing damage to people or property it would not be covered by the church insurance due to PLI not being provided. If there is a near miss it would need to be reported to the HSE under the terms of RIDDOR (Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 2013, <https://www.hse.gov.uk/riddor/>).

- When people are working in the churchyard they should evidence the PPE that they are using to minimise the risk of harm during any work they undertake meets with the current legislation.
- Activities in the churchyard should be undertaken with a 'clear as you go' attitude in order that the churchyard is left as safe a state as possible to prevent visitors, villagers and contractors from coming to harm.

Paul Laws.