



**ALL SAINTS CHURCH
CHILDWALL ABBEY ROAD
LIVERPOOL L16 5EY**

January 2010

Dear

Ref: All Saints Churchyard, Childwall, Liverpool

Burial plot / grave number

Name of deceased:-

Year of internment:-

You may be aware that in the summer of 2010, the PCC of All Saints Childwall agreed to submit plans to both the local authority, as well as the church authorities, to

1. Build an extension to the church.
2. Upgrade the existing church hall, including the addition of an upstairs floor.
3. Sell part of the vicarage grounds for the building of 4 detached houses to provide some of the finance required for the extension to the church.

The planning process continues as this letter is sent. One of the main items of concern has been that, wherever any extension to the church was planned, this would undoubtedly mean that this would encroach on some of the existing burial plots, as the church is completely surrounded by graves. The plans submitted are for an extension to the north side of the church and can be found on the church's website which may be found at www.allsaintschurchchildwall.com .

As the above plot is to be affected by these proposals this letter is being sent to you at this stage to give due notice of what is proposed. The name / address / contact details we have on record are as the addressee of this letter and this is why this letter is being sent to you. If you have no knowledge of the above could you please let us know, or, better still, give us any information which may assist us in tracing the last known relatives / next of kin of the above.

Our consultants are trying to cause minimum disruption of the site and it has always been our hope that we would be able to avoid **ANY** exhumations if at all possible, and that the extension could be built over the top of the graves. We felt that this would be particularly appropriate as it has always been considered an honour to have one's remains interred underneath the church itself. Our consulting engineer's have now produced a scheme for the foundation works which proposes the use of some bored concrete supports which can be placed **in between** the various burial plots, thereby avoiding the need for any exhumations or disturbance of remains. These have been submitted for consideration to both the local and church authorities for consideration.

The diocesan archaeologist has also been involved in these discussions and has requested that exploratory test pits be excavated to ensure the appropriateness of the foundations as well as making certain there are no archaeological artefacts which may need to be preserved in the area. These test pits will be excavated by hand by archaeologists outside the area of any

burial plots. We have also been advised that the foundation proposals will also need to be forwarded to the English Heritage Regional Science Advisor as well as the Merseyside Archaeological Advisor for their comments.

We remain optimistic that the proposed extension can be undertaken without the need for any exhumations but this will depend on the outcome of the above investigations.

Once it has been agreed which way we can undertake the foundation construction, the finalised proposals will be advertised as required by the church authorities and you will be contacted further, so that you may make any representations you may wish to make to the relevant authorities. It is only after this process has been undertaken that final approval will be considered. This letter is therefore really just to bring you up to date and make you aware of what is intended.

The PCC and the church authorities also need to make appropriate arrangements for any headstones within the area of the proposed extension. The PCC is making the following proposal for any headstones, which was passed at a recent PCC meeting:-

‘At a meeting of the PCC held on 12th December 2010, it was agreed that all the headstones in the area of the current churchyard required for the proposed new extension to the church be carefully removed. These are to be reinstalled in the nearest possible position against the churchyard boundary wall. It is intended that the names of those whose headstones are so removed shall be recorded in an appropriate manner on the external face of the new church extension when completed, confirming the names of those whose remains may rest underneath the building’.

I trust this brings you up to date with the current position. As stated, you will be contacted again once any definitive proposals have been finalised and an opportunity to comment on such proposals formally will be given, but we felt it appropriate that as we now have some definitive information on the way we hope to proceed, that we should furnish you with the details. I can but stress that throughout this process we have, and always will, strive to ensure that any remains or burial plots are treated with the respect they deserve.

Finally, I enclose a brief ‘question and answer’ booklet that was produced following a recent congregational meeting for your information. This information can also be found on the church’s website as detailed above.

If you have any comments or queries at this stage please do not hesitate to contact us and we will endeavour to answer any queries as best we can.

Yours in Christ

Gary Renison
Vicar

Peter Jennins
Church Warden

Graham Deacon
Chairman - Development

Encl: booklet on Q and A’s