

Press release

Hartley Parish Council owns and manages Hartley Burial Ground which is located adjacent to All Saints Church in Church Road, Hartley. Burial authorities have a general duty of care to maintain their burial grounds in good order. In addition burial authorities may have duties under the health and safety legislation. In this respect Hartley Parish will do all that is reasonably practicable to ensure that visitors and those working in Hartley Burial Ground are not exposed to risks to their health and safety.

As part of this process Hartley Parish Council intends to assess and manage the risks imposed by memorials installed in the Burial Ground in order to provide assurance that the risks are low and that they are properly managed. In May 2009 Hartley Parish Council adopted a Memorial Safety Programme and Testing Policy which sets out how this will be achieved. The policy adopted by the Parish Council is risk based and proportionate to the management of risks associated with memorials in burial grounds. The adopted policy has been developed based on guidance issued by the Ministry of Justice. Copies of the Council's Memorial Safety Programme and Testing Policy and its Risk Assessments are available, on request, from the Hartley Parish Council Office in Hartley Library.

The Parish Council is considering arranging an open morning so that relatives can see a demonstration of what is involved and be given an opportunity to ask questions. It is hoped that the work will commence in March 2010. If any member of the public requires further advice, they should contact the Clerk to Hartley Parish Council at the following address:

Hartley Parish Council
The Parish Council Office
Hartley Library
Ash Road
Hartley
Longfield
Kent DA3 8EL

Tel no: 01474 709441

E mail: mail@hartleyparishcouncil.org.uk

