



Clerk to the Council - Martin Broomhead  
Desford Library, Main Street, Desford, Leicester LE9 9JP

September 2021

## **ST MARTIN'S CHURCHYARD, DESFORD HEADSTONE SAFETY INSPECTIONS**

Desford Parish Council is responsible for ensuring safety at St Martin's Churchyard. As such, the Council have instructed a firm of monumental masons, affiliated to the National Association of Monumental Masons, to undertake a safety survey of the headstones in the churchyard in line with the existing British Standard. It is likely that some of the headstones are not compliant with today's standards and action may be necessary. This action in the worst cases could include taking the headstone away to prepare them for secure re-installation.

The inspections will commence in November and this will allow time for concerned family and friends time to check if they still have an interest in the headstones. If you have any concerns or require any further information, please contact the Parish Office. (email: [clerk@desfordparishcouncil.co.uk](mailto:clerk@desfordparishcouncil.co.uk) or phone 01455 822993).

For your own safety, and that of all visitors to the churchyard, please **DO NOT ATTEMPT TO TEST A MEMORIAL YOURSELF**. Any repair works must be undertaken by a qualified stone mason and the Parish Council will be informed of the works being carried out.

- For any unsafe memorials, these will be made safe by the Parish Council or its designated contractors to ensure the safety of visitors to the churchyard.
- That the rules and regulations regarding installation of memorials changed in 2004, therefore some memorials may not be compliant.
- All inspections and remedial work will be carried out in accordance with the National Association of Memorial Masons (NAMM) Code of Working Practice which is underpinned by the British Standard 8415.
- The work will be overseen by a qualified memorial fixer who is on the Register of Qualified Memorial Fixers (RQMF).
- The safety inspectors are fully qualified and they will carry out a hand test and nothing intrusive or obstructive will be carried out on a memorial to ascertain its safety.

The Regulations under which the Safety Inspection & Assessment of Memorials is carried out are the Health & Safety at Work Acts 1974 and the Management of Health and Safety Regulations 1999.