

Ambler Thorn Methodist Chapel Graveyard Memorial Survey – Level 1 & Level 2 Risk

Background

Calderdale Methodist Circuit as owner of last resort, is responsible for the safety of the churchyard at Peckett Well. With the recent tragic events at Rawtenstall Cemetery **a survey was undertaken to consider the stability of memorials in order to address safety** concerns regarding loose memorials

The methodology of testing was derived after previous surveys undertaken by a firm of Chartered Architects: Historic Building Consultants.

Methodology

A proportionate approach to testing, with a visual inspection and a gentle hand push test, has been used to identify any movement between components. The memorials classified as Level 1 are defined as

Immediate action is required to make the memorial safe or to stop the public accessing the memorial. This could be the permanent removal of the hazard or the temporary making safe of the hazard

The memorials classified as Level 2 are defined as

The memorial is not an immediate danger to the public but is not fully stable and will, therefore, need to be monitored every 12 months to assess any further deterioration of the memorial. The construction, material used, or position of the memorial may also qualify it as priority 2.

Response

With graves marked as Level 1, given the seriousness of the classification, the circuit may employ a local contractor, who have extensive experience in Graveyard memorials, to make these memorials safe, if the owners (family) of the monument do not come forward to undertake repairs. **The result is that the stone will be carefully laid down in the confines of the grave plot.** All actions will be done in a careful and respectful way and no disrespect was intended.

With graves marked as Level 2, the circuit will continue to monitor these, but does invite the owners (family) of the monument to undertake repairs to fix any issues before any further deterioration.

Responsibility for repairs

An owner, the Deed Holder or successor in title of a memorial, has the responsibility to maintain it so as not to present a hazard. They should engage a suitably qualified memorial mason, and agree the works with the Circuit, to make the required repairs. All work should comply with the National Association of Memorial Masons Code of practice.

If you are the owner of any of the below monuments then please contact us at the following email to discuss any details.

graveyards@calderdalemethodistcircuit.org.uk

Please do not simply stand the monument back up as this does not resolve the safety issues identified.

Grave Plan

The graveyard is laid out in a grid, with rows starting at the right-hand side of the graveyard (opposite side from Halifax Road) and continuing on. There are a number of graves on each row.

The graveyard is full in the right half, but then the number of visible graves as you approach the Halifax Road side decreases. The entrance to the graveyard is on Shibden Head Lane, and therefore the numbering will start from this end.

For this document we assume that row A is the first row on the right as you enter the graveyard, there are a further five rows [rows A, B, C, D, E, F] grave number 1 is on the bottom most side of the row and numbering continues, therefore you can establish a grave's position from a reference number.

Level 1

During the survey a headstone was laid down as this was not secured at all.

G41

Charnock

Level 1 – Laid flat at time of
survey



Level 2

The following monuments are classified as Level 2

A11

Scott

Level 2

Monument loose



A19
Naylor

Level 2
Monument loose



A33
Greenwood

Level 2
Monument loose



A41

Mitchell

Level 2

Monument loose



B3

Rushworth

Level 2

Monument loose



D13

Herbert

Level 2

Monument loose



F5

Firth

Level 2

Monument loose



G42

Ackroyd

Level 2

Monument loose

