

Closure of St. Mary-the-Virgin Church, Churchyard, Woodford Halse, Northamptonshire.

Notice is hereby given that it is the intention of the Secretary of State for Justice, acting on an application by the incumbent and churchwardens, to apply to the Privy Council for an Order requiring the discontinuance of burials in the above churchyard.

Provision would be made for the following exceptions: -

- a. in any vault or walled grave in the churchyard, burial may be allowed but every coffin in such vault or grave must be separately enclosed by stonework or brick work properly cemented;

- b. in any existing earthen grave in the churchyard, the burial may be allowed of the body of any member of the family of the person or persons previously buried in that grave, but no part of the coffin containing the body shall be less than one metre below the level of the surface of the ground adjoining the grave; and

- c. in any grave space in which no interment has previously taken place, the burial may be allowed of any person for whom, or any member of the family for which that grave space has been reserved and appropriated, with the exclusive right of burial there, but no part of the coffin containing the body shall be less than one metre below the level of the surface of the ground adjoining the grave.

Any representations about the proposed closure should be sent to the Coroners Casework Team, Ministry of Justice, 102 Petty France, London SW1H 9AJ or coroners@justice.gov.uk (quoting reference **CC/JUL24/015**) by **24thSeptember 2024**

This notice refers to burials in the churchyard only, not the Parish Cemetery where burials are now sited. There have been no new graves in the churchyard since 2010, only additions to existing graves where that is already planned, as there is no more room. There will still be full public access to the churchyard.

If you have any questions please email the churchwardens:

Phillida Walker pwwhpcc@gmail.com or

Joyce Randell joycemrandell54@gmail.com