

Appendix 7

Health and Safety

There is a duty of care to ensure the safety of visitors to the churchyard. There are several hazards associated with churchyards and simple precautions and preventative measures can reduce the risks.

Appoint a church member with responsibility for H&S. This person may report to a small sub-committee.

Risk Assessment is a careful assessment of what could cause harm to people, in order to decide whether enough precautions have been taken.

Five steps to risk assessment are:

1. Look for hazards (anything that can cause harm)
2. Decide who may be harmed and how
3. Evaluate the risks and decide whether existing precautions are adequate. What are the risks/chance high or low that someone may be harmed by the hazard?
4. Record the findings.
5. Review the assessment and revise if necessary

Hazards associated with churchyards include trees, gravestones, paths and steps, walls and fences and churchyard maintenance.

Useful contact is the Health and Safety Executive who produces practical guidance notes. Tel: 01787 881165

The Ecclesiastical Insurance Group plc produce guidance notes Tel: 01452 528533

Appendix 8

Tree Inspections

Carry out in September or October. Use binoculars to check details etc

Checklist

Check whether:

The tree has grown near to existing structures, if so pruning may be necessary.

Saplings have established at the base of walls or gravestones.

Overhead cables are clear of growth.

The tree shape has become untidy and pruning is necessary.

The tree should then be checked from its leaves to its base looking at:

Roots – Check for fungi, soil cracks tree lean.

Trunk and branches – check for dead branches, ivy, lightning or storm damage, cavities or wounds. Oak and Ash tree can become stag headed with age but remain healthy.

Bark -check for fungi, cankers, calluses, sap seepage, loose or damaged bark.

Leaves – Are they unnaturally small, sparse or misshapen. Do they fall early and is the entire tree affected.