St Margaret of Antioch Church, Harpsden

# Proposed Permanent Relocation of Existing and Displaced Memorials

St Margaret's Churchyard is a closed graveyard with no new burials since c.1912. This document forms part of our Church meeting the Heirs at Law requirements to allow for the respectful, permanent relocation of the seventeen, currently visible, memorials on the South and West facing areas, as shown in the accompanying information. We are seeking to permanently relocate these memorials, a number of which have already been displaced over previous decades, or are leaning, to facilitate the construction of the new annexe at St Margaret's Church.

As shown in the separately provided documents, with on-site photographs, the majority of these memorials are headstones which, in the last 100yrs, have been lain down for safety reasons within the grassed areas to the south and west of the church. The illustrative mock-up photographs in this document show the PCC approved proposed relocation areas, which will be in front of the south, rear boundary wall with Harpsden Court, with additional relocations potentially on the South and North Annexe walls, if required. As the majority of these memorials are already in a displaced position the intention is to respectfully restore their original upright positions to conserve and display each memorial in a manner that is befitting and safeguards its condition and character.

The flat tombs will purposefully be laid in their same orientation and we propose to use the areas to the right and left of St. Biranus Oratory for these relocations.

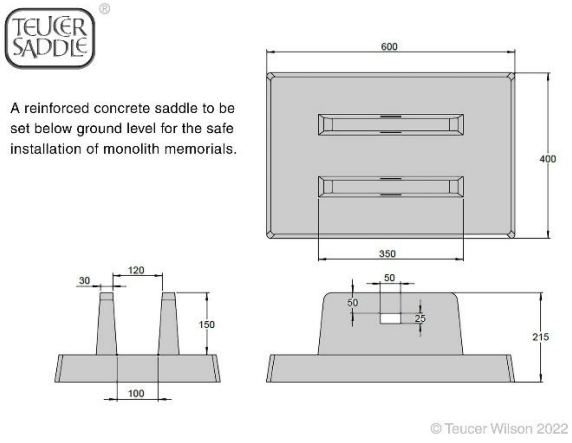
## Proposed Locations

1. **South Boundary Wall**
   A majority of the displaced memorials are proposed to be set within a shallow trench running parallel to the south brick-and-flint boundary wall at the rear of the annexe.

   - The trench will be backfilled, forming a tidy and unobtrusive border.
   - The memorials will be positioned sufficiently away from the wall to allow access for future maintenance or repair and to protect the walls foundations.
   - This arrangement provides an attractive display of the memorials that honours each headstone and remains in keeping with the surrounding character of the closed churchyard.

   **Memorial Saddles and Fixing Method**
   To secure the memorials along the boundary wall, we propose the use of Teucer concrete memorial saddles.





- These saddles are reinforced and manufactured in the same facility as those used by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.
- They comply fully with the relevant British Standards.
- The foundation sits below ground level, allowing the memorial stone to be slotted securely into place.
- This method creates a traditional appearance, with each stone rising upright from the purpose-built trench.

2. **Secondary Location for Upright Memorials (if required)**
   Should the available space along the south boundary wall prove insufficient to accommodate all memorials (excluding the flat tomb tops), the remaining stones will be sensitively displayed along the south wall of the new annexe. This approach ensures that every memorial is afforded its own dignified and appropriate space, rather than being placed too closely together, and is warmly supported by the PCC as a way of bringing the 'old and new' into meaningful continuity - allowing these historic memorials to rest in dialogue with the new building.

3. **Flat Tombs**
   Flat tombs will be repositioned to the right (and potentially left) of the Oratory. Any additional memorials uncovered during the construction process will also be carefully relocated within the ancient churchyard, ensuring continuity of setting and respect for the historic landscape.

4. **Illustrative Visuals**
   The AI-generated images below are provided to illustrate the proposed appearance of the two main relocation areas. These images are indicative only and do not represent precise scale, materials, or final detailing. They are intended solely to assist in visualising the general concept.



*Memorials displayed in front of the south boundary wall (Harpsden Court in the distance)*



*Memorials displayed on the annexe south wall*

## Conclusion

We hope that this document, together with the accompanying mock illustrations, helps to visualise how the displaced memorials will continue to hold their valued place within our closed graveyard. The PCC remains fully committed to ensuring that every monument is treated with the utmost dignity and care throughout the process of permanent relocation, honouring their place within the enduring fabric of our historic churchyard.