St Chad's Church
Pattingham with Patshull

HEALTH AND SAFETY

POLICY ON MAINTENANCE OF THE CHURCHYARD

A. TREES

All trees in the churchyards need to be inspected periodically including trees on neighbouring land which overhang our land or could be a hazard. There should be regular visual inspections by or on behalf of the churchwardens (at least annually) and by a professional at least every 5 years or as recommended.

B. GRAVESTONES & TOMBS

Maintenance is the responsibility of the deceased's family.

Where the family cannot be traced it is the responsibility of the PCC (see policy on Requests for Maintenance)

An annual survey of stones is to be carried out and any stones in a dangerous state are to be made safe and the family contacted to advise of this action.

A record of the annual survey is to be kept by the Churchwardens stating the date, the names of the persons undertaking the survey, and a record of the stones which were in a dangerous state and the action taken. The Churchwardens should report to the PCC that the survey has been undertaken and that should be recorded in the minutes.

Original policy September 2001 – revised and approved by Admin-IWG May 2024 – reviewed by Admin-IWG 29th June 2025 and 10th November 2026 – due for review November 2027