



Organisation Name	Holy Trinity Church, Prestwood
Project Name	Prestwood Ashes Garden Memorial Wall
Funding Stream	Community Area Priorities
Total Cost of project	£20,940
Amount of Match Funding	£ various from other sources – Local donations, Garfield Weston, AllChurches, Stoke Mandeville, Waitrose
Amount being applied for	£5,400
Amount Recommended	£

Project Summary

Within the churchyard of Holy Trinity Prestwood (HTP), is an area reserved solely for the interment of ashes, this is a Christian space within the estate of the Church, but is open for the whole community of Prestwood and Great Kingshill, not just those who worship at HTP.

Currently, ashes have been interred in containers or caskets usually with a memorial plaque or marker of some sort placed above them. This takes up a finite amount of space; the garden is now nearly full and within two years will no longer be able to receive further interments. We thus wish to build an appropriate memorial wall where ashes can be buried at the base of the proposed monument, rather than in caskets as present, and people can be commemorated by inscriptions on the wall, enabling a much higher usage density which should allow the garden to be kept open for many years to come (>50 years) and maintain a connection between the local community and the last resting place of the remains of their loved ones. If we are unable to raise these funds, then the site would normally be handed over to the Council for admin/maintenance purposes.

The existing Ashes Memorial Garden will be full within the next two years. Unless we are able to increase the interment capacity of these Gardens, then all future interments will typically be in Amersham. This means that the local community (and previous villagers who have moved away) will not be able to be interred locally, as they may wish and with their existing families and friends.

How does the project address local priorities?

Health and wellbeing

The project will provide a continuing point of commemoration for local families, maintaining a connection for the community. There is the probability of future interments being in Amersham should this not proceed, meaning that there will be increased travel and difficulties of access for the community.

How does the project align with the values, objectives and corporate priorities of Buckinghamshire Council?

Strengthening our communities, Improving our environment

Strengthening our communities: The continued provision of Local ashes (cremated) interment facilities for Prestwood, Great Kingshill and the surrounding area will help keep the community connected. Allowing families and friends to visit their loved ones, to pay their respects and share memories, within the village setting, rather than travel to another area. This is a very important part of the community feel/environment for the local area, and the Church is keen to be seen providing, in addition to spiritual guidance, practical assistance by way of, christenings, marriage, burial, interment, food bank, playgroups etc.

Improving our environment: The current gardens are maintained by groups of volunteers, and includes a wide range of ages from the congregation, members of the local community and often members of the family/friends of the recently interred/buried.

The site is designated as an internationally important waxcap grassland, and along with Prestwood Nature, we manage the site so that it is available for lectures, talks and Nature Walks.

How does the project achieve value for money?

HTP have been fundraising and have gained support from other funding organisations. They are looking for approximately 25% of the total cost from the Board towards their costs. Ongoing maintenance will be funded by the Church or carried out by volunteers.

Community Board Coordinator comments

The memorial provides a focal point locally for commemoration by the whole community. In addition, the site provides an important environment for nature and is used as an educational environment. The volunteering programme for maintenance offers an opportunity for the community to come together.

The applicant will be required to agree to terms and conditions, which include a monitoring agreement, as discussed with the Community Board Coordinator before the fund will be formally awarded.