

All Saints Shillington – Removal of trees from the Churchyard

This application is for the permanent removal of a number trees/large bushes within the churchyard at All Saints Church, Shillington. I understand that a number of trees were blown down or damaged during a storm in 2022.

The trees we are requesting permission to remove were damaged in a storm in 2022 and/or are believed to have grown as a result of self-seeding and previous poor maintenance.

The works are deemed necessary to ensure the churchyard is maintained at a high level for the benefit of wildlife (this is a Living Churchyard) and safety for all users. This area is in frequent use by the local community and beyond, as visitors to the church, walkers, dog walkers and relatives tending to memorials.

The trees are located in between section 7 and 5, location A on the churchyard map provided (**Document 1**) on the slope down the hill from the west side of the church. This is an area of grassland. The trees at the front are overloaded with ivy. In between the trees are located a series of high steps which also overgrown. The state of the trees adds to the sense of deterioration of this part of the churchyard and the visual aspect and safety of this sloped/stepped area. It is anticipated that work on the steps can be explored following removal of the trees. Whilst the Tree Survey (**Document 5**) carried out in January 2023 did not determine the Lawson Cypress to be a risk, this contributes heavily to the concerns about aspect and safety of this whole area.



Photo 1

View from the top of the hill (Church behind)



Photo 2

View from the bottom of the steps/slope looking up to the church. The request is made for the removal of all these pictured.



Photo 3

Another view from the top of the hill looking down over the trees.



Photo 4

Another view from the top of the hill looking the trees/shrubs to be removed.



Photo 5

The additional shrub is sited at location B and it is believed this has grown from self seed over several years. Permission is also requested for this to be removed.

Tree Preservation Orders

There are trees on the path leading up the church and also two yew trees which are subject to tree preservation orders, these do not form part of this application. I understand that the trees relating to this application are not subject to tree preservation orders.

The churchyard is situated in the Shillington (including Apsley End) Conservation Area and permission to remove the trees was granted in December 2023. **(Letter attached – Document 2)**

Contractor details and urgency

A local company 'Grangers' are due to carry out the work at the reasonable cost of £460 plus VAT. They are professional tree surgeons and a company with significant experience. Work is planned for Wednesday 27 November 2024. **(Information attached – Document 3 and 4)**

Revd Jenna Dearden
17 November 2024

Information for the Standard Information Form;

- Amendment information;
- Is the church, churchyard or any adjoining structure in a conservation area? YES - Shillington (including Apsley End) Conservation Area
- Has the churchyard been used for burials? YES
- Is the churchyard or burial ground still used for burials? YES
- Are there any graves that are identified as war graves by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission? YES

- Please identify any historic structures, listed tombs, war memorials or significant trees in the churchyard or burial ground - There are several trees I understand are subject to TPO's.