



# BENEFICE OF CASTOR

Rector : The Rev'd David Ridgeway  
The Rectory,  
5 Church Hill,  
Castor,  
Peterborough,  
PE5 7AU

Telephone 01733 380244  
rector.castor@btconnect.com

The Clerk,  
Castor Parish Council,  
22 Borrowdale Close,  
Gunthorpe,  
Peterborough  
PE4 7YA

22 February 2021

## **Future Burial Provision - Castor and Ailsworth**

Dear Mr Haste,

I am writing to you regarding the situation relating to burial provision for the residents of Castor and Ailsworth.

Councillors will be aware that for many centuries villagers have had the right to be buried in their village churchyard which surrounds St Kyneburgha's Church. Unfortunately the churchyard is now almost full and it will soon have to be closed for full burials. There is still space for the burial of cremated remains so this should be able to continue in the churchyard for the foreseeable future.

We estimate that there are currently between fifteen and twenty vacant burial plots. The exact number will depend upon the soil conditions and other factors. Based on these figures, and the current rate of full burials, it is envisaged that the existing churchyard will have to be closed for full burials in the near future.

Clearly if we are to maintain the current right which villagers have to be buried within the village, an area of land will need to be identified that can be set aside either as a churchyard extension or village cemetery. I am therefore writing to both the Castor and Ailsworth Parish Councils to seek their help with this process.

An obvious location for future burials would be the lower half of Glebe Field on the other side of Stocks Hill from the current churchyard. However, this land falls within the Castor Roman Sites Scheduled Ancient Monument and, when I approached Historic England some while ago about the possibility of using this land for burial, they were very clear that they would not support this proposal.

Given the fact that time is running out, I would be grateful if you could alert the Parish Councillors to the matter in the hope that the two parish councils can work together with the Parochial Church Council in trying to resolve the matter. I am of course very happy to meet with the Parish Council if this would be helpful.

Thank you for your help with this matter.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Ridgeway". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke extending to the left.

David Ridgeway

cc Mr Neil Boyce - Parish Council Chair