

# **The Parish Church of St. Mary Magdalene, Whatlington**

## **Parish Council Grant Application 2024**

### **Garden of Remembrance paving slabs**

As councillors will have noted from the church report, we have had to meet some £18,000 of unexpected expenditure, directly connected to an infestation of death watch beetle in the roof timbers of the church. This also entailed the replacement of a seriously damaged medieval tie beam and the associated ashlar upright timbers, this work accounted to approximately one third of the total cost.

With the burden of the above work, time has unfortunately not allowed us to obtain estimates for relaying the paving slabs in the Garden of Remembrance within the time-frame. We do however have two estimates pending This particular project has been on our list of outstanding work for some time now and is the subject of our application for a Grant.

There are four paving slab paths which divide the Garden of Remembrance. These would have originally been laid many years ago and serve to divide and define the area, whilst also giving easy access to those seeking to visit the place where loved ones ashes are interred. The area also includes a seat where relatives can sit and feel close to departed loved ones. The seat will benefit from improvements to its mounting.

The slabs will need to be lifted, intrusive tree roots attended to and then for the subsoil to be dug out and replaced with a new dry mix to form a sound foundation on which to relay them.

The area does not afford easy access for delivery of heavy aggregates, so these will have to be moved by wheel barrow from the small private car park, with the owners permission.

The churchyard at Whatlington is open for burials and interment of ashes

The Parochial Church Council would be most grateful for any contribution the council feel able to make to help us improve this important area of the churchyard.