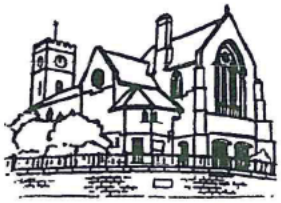
The United Benefice of Todmorden with Cornholme and Walsden

[redacted]

Part of The Diocese of Leeds



25.01.2021

The Town Clerk,
Todmorden Town Council,Town Clerks Office
Todmorden Community College
Burnley Road
Topdmorden
OL14 7BX

Dear Sir,

Cross Stone (St Paul) Cemetery Todmorden

As the responsible body for the upkeep of the above cemetery, The PCC of St Marys Church Todmorden have agreed to approach the Ministry of Justice with the intention of closing the churchyard for new burials.

We understand that we must serve notice to our local authority of our intention as the responsibility for future maintenance will be theirs.

The churchyard is now full and will be unable to accept further interments.

As a parish we have endeavoured to maintain the area tidy and safe with regular checks on the safety of the gravestones, and feel It, and the boundaries are in a good state. There are 13 Commonwealth War Graves on the site.

We would be obliged if you could complete the question B4 on the enclosed form and return them to us March 1st 2021 at the address below.

Thank you for your help in this matter.

Yours sincerely

[redacted]

Derek Underwood.
Churchwarden, St Marys Church Todmorden

[redacted]

Part B(i)

Notice of intention to apply to transfer maintenance responsibility

(To be sent to the appropriate Town / Parish council or parish meeting)

In the event that an Order in Council is made to discontinue burials in

CROSS STONE churchyard,

TODMORDEN Parochial Church Council

hereby gives notice of its intention to request

TODMORDEN Town / Parish council or parish

meeting (*delete as applicable*) to take over maintenance responsibility for the churchyard in accordance with the provisions of section 215 of the Local Government Act 1972.

Signed (Secretary of PCC): [redacted] Date: 26.1.21

B1	The grounds for closure* are (PCC to ✓ as appropriate):	
	a) There is no proper room for new graves.	✓
	b) Further burials would be contrary to decency.	
	c) Discontinuance of burials would prevent or mitigate nuisance	
	d) Further burials would constitute a health risk	
	e) Other	
	Additional information regarding the reasons for discontinuing burials is / is not attached	
	* Grounds (a) to (d) have been agreed by the Ministry of Justice, Church of England and local government representative organisations as potential grounds for justifying closure.	
B2	The churchyard contains (PCC to ✓ as appropriate):	
	war graves	✓
	earth graves with space for the burial of additional family members	✓
	vaults/walled graves with space for additional burials	✓
	graves reserved by faculty	✓

B3	The overall condition of the churchyard is: GOOD **NB:** Please use one of the definitions provided below. Further information covering the churchyard's pathways, walls and fences, memorials and trees is set out in the attached document.
B4	Does the Council / chairman of the parish meeting have any objections to the closure of the burial ground, on the grounds given above at B1: Yes ☐ No ☐

The council / chairman of the parish meeting should now return this form to the Parochial Church Council explaining, if necessary, why it is considered that the burial ground should not be closed under the grounds given at B1

Definitions for overall churchyard condition for Question B3.

Good	The churchyard is in an acceptable condition for the maintenance responsibility to be transferred. The trees, walls and fences are in a reasonable state of repair, and the monuments have been assessed for safety within the last 2 years.
Fair	The churchyard and/or the trees, walls and fences require some attention, but no major work, restoration or clearance. For example the trees might need trimming, some repairs might be required to the walls or fences, and/or the memorials may not have been assessed recently or are known to include some which need to be made safe.
Poor	The churchyard requires capital investment or essential repairs or restoration work.