



SALTASH TOWN COUNCIL

Announcement

Headstone Safety Inspections at St Stephens Churchyard

Saltash Town Council, in collaboration with St Stephens Church, will soon begin a Headstone Safety Audit in St Stephens Churchyard to ensure the site remains safe for all who visit.

Burial authorities have a general duty to inspect all headstones in their cemeteries at least once every five years, to ensure any dangerous or unstable memorials are identified and made safe. Over time, memorials can become loose or unstable due to natural wear, ground movement, or weathering. Sadly, there have been serious accidents, including fatalities, across the UK where unsafe memorials were not addressed in time.

The Town Council's Service Delivery Department will begin inspections from 18 August 2025, and each headstone will be assessed to identify any that are unstable or pose a risk. Where necessary, memorials will be temporarily made safe, either by being laid flat or secured with supportive equipment, and details of the inspection will be reported directly to the Church. The Church will then respectfully handle the results of the survey, and contact the families where repair work is needed.

We recognise this is a sensitive matter and wish to reassure the public that all inspections will be carried out with the utmost care, dignity, and respect for the families and visitors of St Stephens Churchyard.

Please note that the process may take some time, as it is essential to ensure all headstones are assessed and confirmed to be safe. Therefore, we are unable to provide an end date at this stage. Please contact our Service Delivery Manager if you have any questions on the details provided below:

Email: services@saltash.gov.uk

or

Phone: 01752 844846

END

**<https://www.saltash.gov.uk/newsandevents.php>
enquiries@saltash.gov.uk 01752 844846**



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