

47 Alpine Drive Wardle
Rochdale
OL12 9NY

7 August 2009

Dear Sirs

GRAVEYARD OF ST. JAMES THE APOSTLE, WARDLE

I am writing on behalf of Wardle Society, representing the people of Wardle, to express our concern at the appalling state of the graveyard of the Church of St. James the Apostle, Wardle; it is an absolute disgrace.

We are aware that the Church building has been converted into dwellings, as has the former St. James Primary School; however this does not alter the fact that the Church yard still contains the graves of people who have close relatives still living in Wardle village, and, as far as we are aware is still able to accept burials there, although to access the drive up to the Churchyard with a hearse and subsequently negotiate the paths between other graves would be nigh on an impossibility.

As far as we were aware the developers of the Church building were to landscape the area in the vicinity of the building and tidy up the rest of the Churchyard, whilst ultimately of course, the maintenance of this area is the responsibility of the Diocese. Judging by the state of the whole area, both have failed miserably.

Various Church officials have been written to in the past regarding this matter, but excuses have been made and the situation remains the same, indeed it has worsened considerably. We are contacting you in the hope that, finally, something may be done

We would strongly urge you to take a look at this area and would appreciate your comments as to what may be done to remedy the present dire situation.

Yours faithfully

Jane Rickards (Chair)

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cc. Mark Davies (Archdeacon pf Rochdale), Sharon Jones (Area Dean), Revd. Andrew Howell.