

# Help us to give our church graveyard a new lease of life

**CHURCH** wardens at St Saviour's in Coalpit Heath are appealing for people to come forward if they can help repair their relatives' graves.

In an effort to tidy up the graveyard, which has more than 600 graves dating as far back as 1844, church staff will be repairing stones marking the grave borders.

Some of the stones are crumbling, which makes it difficult for staff to keep the churchyard looking tidy and often cause problems when they try to mow the grass.

No work will be done on the headstones, but church warden Andy Brander said staff were aware that repair work on the graves was a sensitive issue to many of the families.

He said: "It is difficult - we don't want to go in and start moving things around and for people to be upset that their relative's grave has changed at all. We want to make sure as far as possible that everyone who



**Appeal:** Church wardens Mary Head and Andy Brander want to tidy up the graveyard and repair graves at St Saviour's in Coalpit Heath

**Photograph:** Jon Kent

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needs to know about the work does.

"We have put information on our website. If anyone wants to help do some repair work, they can get in touch, but if they just want to be kept informed about

what is happening they can also give us a call.

"We want to stress that this is just a small exercise to tidy the churchyard, to make it look pretty and easy to maintain. We are not going to be doing anything major.

"We do not want to cause any undue stress to anyone, but our churchyard is well looked after



and cared for and this is to do what we can to maintain everything in good order."

Work will begin at the start of March to cement some of the border stones back in place, to

make them more secure and neat.

A working team will carry out the work on an ongoing basis, and they hope to complete it by the time the grass

needs cutting for the first time in early summer.

Visit [www.coalpitheath.org.uk](http://www.coalpitheath.org.uk) or call Andy on 01454 882867 to register your interest in a grave or discuss it further.