

GENERAL SYNOD OF
THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

Church House Dean's Yard London SW1P 3NZ. Telephone 01-222 5011

21st September 1981

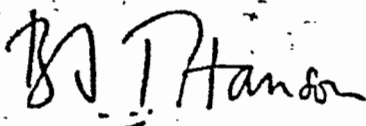
The Secretary,
Diocesan Synod.

Dear Secretary,

Liability for Maintenance of Closed Churchyards

1. You will be aware that under s.215 of the Local Government Act 1972, it is possible for a Parochial Church Council to transfer the responsibility for maintenance of a churchyard, which has been closed by Order in Council, to the Local Authority on giving three month's notice.
2. Especially where extensive repairs are required to the churchyard this short notice can cause difficulties for the Local Authority's budget.
3. As a result of Parliamentary Questions, discussions have been held with the Department of the Environment and with the Association of District Councils and the National Association of Local Councils as to a possible solution to the problem. As far as this office is concerned we would wish to avoid any amendment of s.215.
4. I therefore write to ask you if you would (a) inform Parochial Church Councils in your Diocese of the problem and (b) would request any such Council with a closed churchyard that, in future, the practice should be to give twelve months informal notice to the Local Authority of any intention on the part of the Council to serve the three months' statutory notice laid down in s.215 of the 1972 Act. By this means a Local Authority would have 15 months notice of transfer and adequate provision could then be made in the budget for the ensuing financial year.

Yours sincerely,



for
W.D. Pattinson
Secretary-General