

Petition of the parishioners of Chenies (St Michael's) Parish to the Trustees of the Bedford Settled Estates, through their Commissioner, Mr Michael Sword, JP.

WHEREAS the welfare of the parishioners of Chenies for several centuries depended chiefly on the goodwill of the Bedford Estates, of which Chenies formed a part; and

WHEREAS the Estate has on past occasions shown its forethought for the needs of the parishioners by ensuring that ground is available for burials and

WHEREAS in 1964 foreseeing that a further extension to the Parish Churchyard would shortly become necessary the Trustees (as it is understood) conveyed by deed dated 30th January 1967 to the Rector of the Parish, the Rev. Robert Vorley Stapleton, a portion of ground measuring approximately 1 rood 12 perches adjoining the Churchyard of St Michael's Church for the purpose of a Churchyard to be added to the existing Churchyard of St Michael's Church, and

WHEREAS the Parochial Church Council had full knowledge of the intent to make such extension and by the same Deed covenanted with the Trustee in certain respects to the intent that they might bind (so far as practicable) this property
into whomsoever hands it might come; and

WHEREAS insufficient space remains in the existing Churchyard in which burials may take place, a matter which occasions great anxiety to parishioners and

WHEREAS the Parish Council has been informed that it is not now the intent of the Rector, nor that of the Parochial Church Council of Chenies or others occupying this land to procure or extend the said Churchyard onto this land or otherwise notwithstanding the wishes and needs of parishioners for provision of such an extension and undertakings given on a number of occasions.

NOW THEREFORE THIS PETITION SHOWETH

- (1) The Trustees are respectfully requested to use every means available to require the Rector and/or the others concerned duly to demarcate this ground and add it to the Churchyard of St Michael's Church as soon as it is possible so as to form an extension thereof. *as intended by the Trustees*
- (2) They are likewise requested to use their utmost endeavours to induce the Diocesan Bishop and/or the Suffragan Bishop to consecrate the said ground to the end that it may henceforth be used for the burials of those entitled to be buried therein.

- (3) They are likewise requested to seek a declaration from the Parochial Church Council of St Michael's Church, Chenies that they are and will remain duly bound to perform the covenants entered into in their name in the Deed of 30th January 1967 aforesaid, and that they will so far as necessary cooperate in making the said extension of the Churchyard and securing consecration of the same.

A copy of this Petition is being sent to the Bishop of Oxford, the Bishop of Buckinghamshire, the Archdeacon of Buckingham and the Rector of Chenies, to the Chairman of the Parish Council, the Churchwardens of Chenies, and the Secretary of the Parochial Church Council.

And your Petitioners ever pray,

etc, etc, etc