



Statements of Significance and Statements of Needs



The Council encourages preparing these documents at an early stage when developing proposals as they to help establish need, understand significance and inform decisions about change.

Statement of Proposal

1. General information

The Parish of St Mary Virgin Northill is located near Sandy and Biggleswade in the SG18 postcode area. It includes the villages and hamlets of Northill (pop 360), Ickwell (pop 320), Thorncote (14 households), Hatch, Budna and Brook End (23 households). This information is taken from the Parish profile prepared in 2023. It is part of a Benefice with All Saints Caldecote and St Leonard's at old Warden

There is a weekly Communion Service, with the exception of once a month when there is a Benefice service at one of the churches. Typical numbers for Sunday (not Benefice) are low 20s, the current, winter, congregation varies with recent attendance being between 17 and 22. This was greater, slightly, in the summer of 2024. There is a Said Communion most Thursday morning which has a steady, committed group of five to seven. The Thursday service is held in the church in the summer, and in the church hall in the winter.

There are 36 on the Electoral Roll.

The church has a number of weddings and funerals each year, the numbers do vary year-on-year.

The school use the church for their end of term services, with 60+ children and 40+ adults.

Other uses include concerts, typically one or two each year, a Christmas Tree Festival, and the dry weather plan for the summer fete.

The church is usually open through the day most days. The Visitor's Book has 41 entries from 2024, so having the building open does allow access for a lot of people, as there will be many others who haven't made an entry.

The memorial

Local historians have recently found that in 1942 there was a plane crash at Budna, about a mile from the church. It was on a training mission from an airfield in Norfolk, towards Hungerford and then to return to Norfolk. There was a problem and they crashed. All four perished;

Pilot Officer, John Homfray Ellis 19 years

Sergeant Harry Clarke 21 years

Sergeant William Luney 21 years

Sergeant George Horton 29 years

information provided to the DAC

2. What do you need?

We would like to erect a memorial to their memory so that their sacrifice is not forgotten any longer. This will be on the south side of the church in the churchyard, beside a path.

3. The proposals

The proposal is for a stone memorial, 36" high, 38" wide and 12" deep at the base.

It will be made of Abbey grey granite with black sandblasted lettering. [See separate document for further details.](#)

4. Why do you need it and why do you need it now?

Why now? It could be argued that there should have been a memorial much sooner.

The four men were not from our villages, perhaps that is why no one thought to remember them. However, they are, unfortunately, part of the story of our villages and there is now a feeling that their story must not be left untold any longer.

5. What is the evidence for the need?

Since their story has become more widely known there has been a lot of support for the memorial. At a recent fundraising event over 70 people attended and over £800 was raised.

6. How is the proposal contributing to the need for environmental sustainability?

The proposal neither contributes to, nor against, significant environmental sustainability. The memorial will contribute to local heritage and so contribute to social sustainability.

No negative impacts have been identified.

7. What other options to meet the need were considered, taking Point 6 and the impact identified in the Statement of Significance into account?

There were a number of options discussed for the location of the memorial. It was felt that the location on the south side of the church would be discrete yet easy to access.

Location map needed.

Airmen memorial

Additional information

Church post code SG18 9AA

Location for memorial, what 3 words apes.clips.hourglass



Photos of location using a board,

Note, the board is smaller than the proposed memorial



This guidance is issued by the Church Buildings Council under section 55(1)(d) of the Dioceses, Pastoral and Mission Measure 2007. As it is statutory guidance, it must be considered with great care. The standards of good practice set out in the guidance should not be departed from unless the departure is justified by reasons that are spelled out clearly, logically and convincingly.

