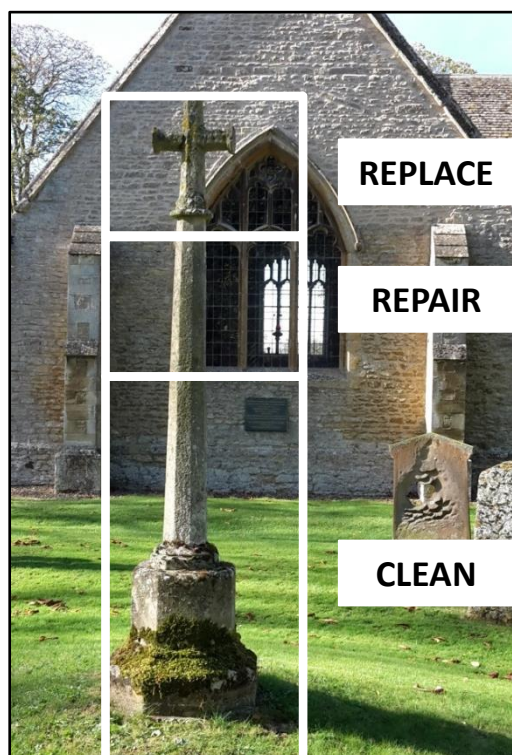


Cross of Sorrow (1920-2020) Appeal

This is a public appeal to raise funds for the restoration of the 100 year old memorial in the churchyard which gives thanks to, and memorialises, the six men from the Village who gave their lives in two World Wars.

The image on the right comes from the Rushden Argus newspaper in an article dated 19th March 1920 entitled **Chelveston's Perpetual Tribute to the Fallen**: "*The money was raised by subscriptions, and it stands at the east of the church on a turfed mound. It is of stone, and about seven feet high. The column bears a fitting inscription on one of the faces with the names of the five fallen men on each side*". A sixth name was added after WWII.

The years have taken their toll on the memorial and by 1996 the inscription had worn away so badly the words were illegible. The Parish Council erected a slate plaque under the East Window of the church with the inscription and six names, so they might continue to be remembered. In 2005 the base under the memorial started to crumble and the Parish Council arranged for repairs to stabilise it. At some point part of the cross structure on the top broke off, and it was re-attached with what looks like a silicone type glue by a villager.



Although it has been repaired twice, it now needs a full restoration if we are to honour that timeless commitment "*We will remember them*". With its centenary approaching, the Parish Council asked Robert Farrow, the local stonemason who worked on the 305th BG memorial in the centre of Chelveston, to assess the Cross of Sorrow. He has identified that, in addition to the weathering and previous damage, the top two sections of the monument are loose and could fall. The Parish Council (with the agreement of the Vicar and Parochial Church Council) has therefore arranged for these sections to be removed and placed in storage.

What needs to be done?

The top section of the column can be re-attached with a stainless steel pin and epoxy resin. The top cross section is too badly worn away and will need to be replaced by new stone carved to match.

The monument will then be cleaned using a specialist stone cleaning system, and re-pointed in lime mortar once cleaning is complete.

continued overleaf...



How much will this cost?

The works described overleaf are estimated at £2,700 (ex-VAT), plus a contingency of £500 in case further problems are uncovered during the cleaning. The appeal is therefore looking to raise £3,200 through donations from residents in the parish.

Why is it in the churchyard?

In many towns and villages, their war memorials are on plots of land that a landowner may have donated (e.g. the Higham Ferrers war memorial is on the Market Square). However, in this parish, the last Lord of the Manor had sold off his estates in July 1919 and moved north to the family home in Staffordshire, so the only land available was in the churchyard.

If the Parish Council has repaired it before, why can't it do so again?

The Parish Council will act as Guarantor for the works and will be able to reclaim any VAT paid. This will reduce the overall cost of restoration. However, the Council only has limited funds, all derived from the Council tax paid by each household. These funds are already allocated to other projects and maintenance around the Village. Since the building of the memorial was originally funded through public subscription, it seems fitting that its 100th anniversary restoration should also be funded by public subscription.

Whilst we don't know the names of the original benefactors from 1920, the names of those donating to the restoration appeal will be recorded on the [parish website](#) (unless they wish to remain anonymous), as was done for the public benefactors of the 305th BG memorial appeal, and a book of benefactors will be printed and placed in the church.

What happens if we raise too much money?

In the event of the appeal raising more money than required to complete the restoration works, any surplus would be held in a restricted fund by the Council for future repairs.

How can we donate to the appeal?

Cash or cheque

Cheques should be made payable to "**Chelveston-cum-Caldecott Parish Council**". Mark the envelope "Cross of Sorrow Appeal" and please include your name(s) as you wish them to appear in the list and book of benefactors.

Caldecott please deliver to Ashbury.
Chelston Rise please deliver to 10 The Crescent.
Chelveston please deliver to 7 Britten Close or 22 Duchy Close.

Online via PayPal.me

Go to <https://paypal.me/CrossofSorrow>

Security check – you should see the Council Crest and the Clerk's name (Mark Hunter)

Select the amount you wish to donate and press "**Next**". In the "**Add Note**" box please include your name(s) as you wish them to appear in the list and book of benefactors, or write "Anon" if you don't wish your name(s) to be included in the list of benefactors.

Thank you for taking time to read this restoration appeal. We hope that the present day villagers will be able to donate as the villagers of 1920 did. In this way we will ensure that "**Chelveston's Perpetual Tribute to the Fallen**" will last another 100 years!