



Ministry of Justice

Mr Christopher Woodhams
PCC Secretary
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**Coroners, Burial, Cremation and
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Our ref: OPR/075/361

25 May 2017

Rec'd 27/5/2017

Dear Mr Woodhams

**Proposed Closure of St Lawrence's Churchyard, Waltham St Lawrence,
Reading**

Thank you for your application form requesting an Order in Council to discontinue burials in the above named churchyard. We have considered your application and are now taking it to the next stage (see paragraph 33 of the guidance notes).

We ask the Parochial Church Council to make sure local parishioners are aware of the proposal so that we can address any concerns or questions they may wish to raise. For this reason, I enclose a draft notice which announces the Secretary of State's intention to apply for a closure Order, including details of any exceptions (such as space in family graves, or graves reserved by faculty).

Please arrange for this notice to be published where all parishioners will have the opportunity to see it, such as a local newspaper, a parish newsletter delivered to the area, or a prominent community notice board.

Once the closure has been advertised, please forward a copy of the published notice to me at the above address.

A copy of this letter is being sent to **Waltham St Lawrence Parish Council** and **Windsor and Maidenhead District Council** for their information.

Yours sincerely,

Richard Finlay

Closure of St Lawrence's Churchyard, Waltham St Lawrence, Reading

Notice is hereby given that it is the intention of the Secretary of State for Justice, acting on an application by the incumbent and churchwardens, to apply to the Privy Council for an Order requiring the discontinuance of burials in the above churchyard.

Provision would be made for the following exceptions:-

- a. in any existing earthen grave in the churchyard, the burial may be allowed of the body of any member of the family of the person or persons previously buried in that grave, but no part of the coffin containing the body shall be less than one metre below the level of the surface of the ground adjoining the grave; and
- b. in any grave space in which no interment has previously taken place, the burial may be allowed of any person for whom, or any member of the family for which that grave space has been reserved and appropriated, with the exclusive right of burial there, but no part of the coffin containing the body shall be less than one metre below the level of the surface of the ground adjoining the grave.

Any representations about the proposed closure should be sent to the Coroners and Burials Team, Ministry of Justice, 102 Petty France, London SW1H 9AJ (quoting reference OPR/075/361) within 21 days of this publication.