



## **Friends of Bowdon Churchyard (FOBCY) – Safeguarding and Safety**

**The churchyard is a wonderfully environment full of history, peace and nature.**

However, we must still be wary of potential hazards. Health and Safety will be discussed at the introduction meeting with the nominated parent / carer, who will then ensure that the young person is properly briefed.

For example:

- The surfaces of the flat gravestones can become very slippery in wet weather. It is critical that great care should be taken, preferably avoiding these flat stones where possible, as well as wearing suitable footwear.
- The risk of unstable grave adornments. Young volunteers should not be dealing with graves where there may be a risk of heavy things collapsing.
- The risk associated with sharps, for example: broken glass or needles. It is advised to have specific gloves if there is a risk of other sharps. The young person needs to report situations such as broken glass to the nominated parent / carer who can then advise the observing FOBCY member.

Our FOBCY members are potentially at risk of (allegations) of improper behaviour. For this reason, there will be little or no direct contact with the young people unless accompanied by their nominated parent / carer or another church volunteer. FOBCY members should not engage in private communications with the young person and where necessary communicate directly with the nominated parent / carer.

If a FOBCY volunteer becomes concerned that the young person may be the subject of abuse from some third party. They will make a note of their concerns and pass it immediately to the Bowdon Parish Safeguarding Officer.

For more information on Safeguarding please visit the 'D of E' section at [www.friendsofbowdonchurchyard.org.uk](http://www.friendsofbowdonchurchyard.org.uk)

**Bowdon DofE Centre also have their own procedures in place.**