

# **Stoke St. Gregory Parish Church Paths**

## **Statement of Significance and Need**

Stoke St. Gregory Parish Church stands in the centre of the village and the path network around it provides access to the church, burial ground and parish cemetery; it is also used as a route to the village school, pre-school, shop and pub - the church car park being integral to the south path. Residents and visitors, many elderly, use these paths daily, often with push chairs and a variety of wheeled and non-wheeled mobility aids.

Over the years, sections of the blue lias slabs have broken up and been replaced with textured concrete, some as recently as 2003. The remaining blue lias sections have now become dangerous with many trip hazards and are slippery when wet.

Replacement is urgently needed! There has been at least one serious fall and more are very likely if we do nothing. It is our legal responsibility to maintain these paths to a safe standard.

Affordability is a major concern as there is no source of grant aid apparent for this work and the church has many other financial commitments. The PCC unanimously agree that further use of concrete sections would be the best solution, these have proven safe, durable, affordable and blend well with the historic church. Investigations have not discovered any feasible alternative.



