

Dowsing at St. Faith's Cemetery, Havant.

Early in February 2022 Don met with two members of the *Friends of Havant Cemeteries*. He dowsed the site of St Faith's Mortuary Chapel which had been demolished in the 1920's, and promised to return to do a full survey with Edwina Cole, another member of HADS.

They agreed to meet on the afternoon of February 27th and began to dowse the site, with Edwina working independently of Don. Other members of the *Friends of Havant Cemeteries* joined us to help. We established where the walls of the Chapel would be, bearing in mind that it would be able to hold about 50 people. The Friends had done a lot of research into the grave stones that are in situ, and to some extent these dictated where the walls of the building would be. We measured the length of the chapel to be 14m and the width to be 7m. We established that the walls were 50cm thick and found where the entrance was, together with the altar.

Having flagged out the chapel we then replaced the flags with hazard tape to make the photographs more meaningful. Aided by members of the *Friends*, Edwina then climbed the stepladder to take photos of the site. Meanwhile Don was organizing a small excavation to see if the wall foundations were still there. We were all delighted to see that they were, and they matched where we thought the walls were exactly! This was particularly pleasing since it was the intention of the group to do some planting at the four corners of the chapel and the dowsing had established exactly where they were.



As the trench was being dug, Ed was completing a drawing of the site, which will be shared by the *Friends of Havant Cemeteries*. The trench could not be left open, so it was back-filled, but in future it may be reopened and covered with Perspex so people can see the foundations of the walls.

It was a very satisfying afternoon's work for all concerned and the results achieved were excellent. As the *Friends of Havant Cemeteries* has a grant, they were able to give Hampshire Archaeological Dowsers (HADS) a donation for which we are very grateful.

The afternoon concluded with prepared blocks of wood being put in place to show where the walls were. We all worked well together to achieve these results, and finished before the sun disappeared! Thanks to all for a great afternoon!

Edwina Cole
February 2022