

ST MARY MAGDALENE BOLNEY IN THE DIOCESE OF CHICHESTER.

POLICY FOR THE CARE OF THE CHURCHYARD

We follow the Diocese of Chichester's Chancellor's Directions concerning churches and churchyards which the Parochial Church Council is bound to observe.

Please follow the link 'Care of the Churchyard' to view the full directions on our website.

www.stmarymagdalenebolney.org.uk

- The churchyard is consecrated ground; the final resting place of the mortal remains of the loved ones who have left this life. It is a place where the living can remember those who have been commended to the mercy of God; a place of peace to be respected.
- It is also a haven for many kinds of wildlife, other parts of God's creation. Some areas of our churchyard remain uncut in rotation at certain times of the year to allow wild flowers to bloom and seed. The remainder is regularly mown and hedges cut.
- The PCC (Parochial Church Council) does what is possible to manage the churchyard in an appropriate way and is grateful to those who help to care for this special place. The guidelines that follow have been drawn up so that all may work together for this purpose and for the avoidance of causing distress.

Graves and memorials

- Bulbs and small plants may be planted.
- Any container used should be restricted to 18" from the front of the memorial and sunk into the ground for ease of maintenance. Preferably of unpolished aluminium.
- Large plant containers are not permitted.
- No glass or pottery to be used as broken fragments become a hazard when the grassed area around the memorials/graves is cut.
- Plastic flowers, photographs, toys and other trinkets are **not** appropriate items to leave on memorials or graves and may cause distress to other visitors to the graveyard. They will be removed as necessary.
- No shrubs, trees or low hedges may be planted on graves or memorials.
- No artificial flowers or foliage are permitted (except for Remembrance Day poppies). Anything else will be removed.
- Wreaths and cut flowers will be removed when withered by those authorised by the incumbent or churchwarden.
- The PCC are not responsible for the care of monuments, vases etc associated with graves and memorials.
- If a grave ceases to be cared for, the PCC may do what is deemed appropriate to keep it in order.

Memorial tablets

- Bulbs may be planted.
- Any fresh flower arrangements should be placed directly on the memorial tablet with wrappings removed and disposed of as soon as they wither.
- Plants are not permitted.
- Please respect the above for those who mow and keep our churchyard tidy.

Our disposal facilities are severely limited, therefore where possible please take away all rubbish.

For any further guidance please visit our website or contact a church warden.

Please see noticeboard or parish magazine for contact details

Revised: 06/09/2023

Reviewed annually: 2nd meeting after each APCM