

All Hallows' Church, Hargrave

PCC Requirements and Guidelines for Burials and Interring Ashes within the Churchyard

1. The Church of England and its Peterborough Diocese have clear guidelines, rules and requirements that must be followed in order for agreement for burials or interring of cremated remains within a churchyard (commonly termed "burials" below in this document).
2. At the time of drafting of this PCC Guidance, the September 2016 Church Care Guidance Note for Burials and subsequent updates refer. Subsequent updates by the Church of England will rule.
3. The following categories of individuals have an automatic right to a burial within the churchyard of All Hallows' (providing the churchyard remains Open for these purposes):
 - a. Village residents living within the parish boundary
 - b. Those whose names are current on the All Hallows' electoral roll
 - c. Those who have died within the parish boundary

In these instances, the process of burial will first require application to and authority from the incumbent who will perform necessary checks and handle all relevant matters to do with registration and certification ahead of the burial proceeding.

The location/plot for the burial will be selected and agreed by the relatives in consultation with the priest and chosen with reference to the graveyard plan held and updated by the PCC.

4. The incumbent may also allow burial of those persons who do **not** fall within the above categories. In making such a decision, (s)he must take account of this specific PCC guidance note which is particularly important given the rapidly diminishing space within our churchyard and the age profile of residents currently living within the village. The PCC agreement should specifically be given and minuted in an appropriately convened quorate PCC meeting.
5. The PCC will be minded to agree to the burial of a person who does not meet the criteria of paragraph 3 above only in circumstances where:
 - a. Although not a village resident, the person is recognised as a current regularly worshipping member of our local church community yet has not yet appeared in the revision of the church electoral role, or
 - b. For a sustained period (years) has previously been a faithful member of All Hallows' church yet is no longer living in the parish, nor died in the parish. This is considered a particularly important distinction where a long time resident and worshipper has moved away from our parish before their death, for instance into sheltered accommodation, to live with relatives or the like.

Other than these two categories 5a and 5b, neither the PCC nor the incumbent should be minded to agree to the burial of persons not falling within the automatic categories above, in

order that space within the consecrated churchyard is retained primarily for the Christian burial of those who are village residents and/or Christians regularly worshipping in this parish church.

6. In the absence of an incumbent, authority for burial should only be granted by the Rural Dean or a more senior minister within the Diocese, with local verification of the person's category and automatic rights to burial in the churchyard coming from the PCC.
7. These guidelines may be reviewed and updated by the PCC from time to time in accordance with Church guidelines