

Regular maintenance

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is responsible for the costs of maintaining the churchyard. The City or Parish Councils have no responsibilities linked to our churchyard. We are aiming for a more sustainable approach with the main areas mowed as before but with narrower paths between the graves. We are being more deliberate in leaving larger areas for bulbs, wild flowers and ferns. Also, items on existing graves that fall over or become unsafe are removed as part of our regular upkeep of the churchyard.

Summary

Long-term, all graves should look something like these:



...with grass and/or plants, flowers or bulbs, up to a maximum of 7ft x 3ft for full burials and 3ft x 2ft for ashes plots (including any headstone and plinth).

The aim is to create a **shared, green, sustainable** and **living memorial space** for us and for the future.

If you have any questions about any of these things, please contact us.

Useful Information and links to forms and guidance:

St Michael's, Galleywood Vicar

Name: Revd David Cattle

Tel: 01245 265250

Email: revdcattle@gmail.com

St Michaels, Galleywood Pastoral Care

Karen Robertson, who oversees the annual Memorial Service held in early November each year.

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St Michael's, Galleywood Churchwardens

Anne Pepper

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Anne Gardner

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Diocese of Chelmsford Churchyard Handbook

Revised Edition March 2020 - this is a summary of the law regarding what is permitted in churchyards in the Diocese of Chelmsford.

https://www.chelmsford.anglican.org/uploads/dac-docs/Churchyard_Handbook_March_2020_Edition.pdf

Chelmsford Diocesan Registry

Administrator: Miss Melanie Tucker, Minerva House, 5 Montague Close, London SE1 9BB

Tel: 0207 593 0314

Email: ChelmsfordRegistry@wslaw.co.uk

Diocese Advisory committee (DAC)

DAC secretary: Mrs Sandra Turner, 53 New Street, Chelmsford, Essex CM1 1AT

Tel: 01245 294423

Email: dac@chelmsford.anglican.org

Link to up-to-date forms for making a number of different applications can be found at

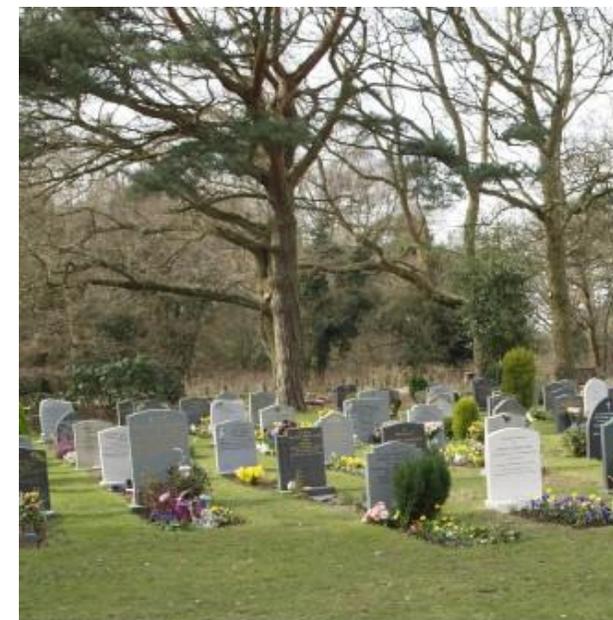
<https://www.chelmsford.anglican.org/chelmsford-registry-link>

After the funeral - caring for a grave

at

*St Michael and All Angels,
Galleywood Common*

**Creating a shared, green,
sustainable and living memorial
space**



Updated July 2020 v2

Caring for a grave in St Michael's Churchyard

A shared, green, sustainable and living memorial space

This churchyard is a shared memorial space for friends and relatives of those buried here, but also for the local community, for visitors, and as a legacy for future generations. It is important to note that a grave is not owned by the family of the person who is buried there, but remains owned by the Church for the benefit of the local community.

It is important that graves are cared for in line with the law, as set out in the 'Churchyard Handbook' produced by the Diocese of Chelmsford. This law is not at the discretion of the vicar or the PCC. Any variation from the law has to be applied for and agreed using a 'Faculty' system (in effect 'Church planning permission'). The guidance for churchyards is not the same as that for local authority or private cemeteries, so what you may see in other cemeteries may not be allowed here. Also, the law has changed in recent years, so please do not take what can be seen on existing graves as a guide to what is permitted now.

What about flowers from the funeral service?

Flowers from the funeral service can be left on the grave for a short time, about 2 weeks. After this, we ask the family to remove them and recycle. If they are left, then we will remove them and recycle.

Letting the ground settle properly

It takes about 6 months for the ground to settle and

therefore it is important that the grave remains mounded during this time and that there is no planting directly into the soil nor any grass or turf laid. You may place plants in pots on the mound as well as lay fresh flowers on the mound.

Applying to erect a headstone

There must be 6 months from the burial before an application can be made to erect a headstone, and this is done using form CR1. There are very strict guidelines for wording and images, set out by the law of the land and the Church of England, and they are not at the discretion of the vicar or PCC. Please see the end of this leaflet for links to the official forms and guidance.

What is allowed on graves?

Once the headstone is erected, the ground can be levelled. After this, then planting can be done into the ground or grass or turf laid by the family. As a simple summary, the only items allowed on graves for the long term are:

- real (NOT artificial) grass,
- fresh flowers in the inset vase in the headstone base (there should only be one of these), and
- flowers, plants or bulbs planted in the ground above the grave itself (but not trees, shrubs or hedges, as these grow too big).

What is not allowed on graves?

We understand that the initial stages of grief mean that personal items on graves are helpful for a short time. At St Michael's, we allow these to be put on graves for the first 6-12 months or until the headstone is erected. After this time, we ask for the family to remove these items. We can join you for a

prayer at the graveside, maybe on the anniversary of the death, as you do this. Or you may bring them into church from the grave for our annual memorial service held at the beginning of November each year and then take them home as part of your own memories.

Personal items to be removed include:

- ornaments, candles, toys and keepsakes,
- anything plastic – including plastic flowers (the only vase allowed is the one set into the base of the headstone),
- vases, pots and other flower holders,
- wind-chimes, windmills and solar lights.

What about special times of the year?

Special anniversaries and times like Christmas are difficult and many families like to put additional flowers on the grave at this time. Please could you ensure that these are natural, rather than artificial, flowers, that there are no wire or pins, and that you remove any plastic wrappers so that the churchyard remains a green, sustainable place. Dead flowers, wreaths or other arrangements that have died or dead plants in pots are always removed.

What about edging and stone chippings?

In the past, items such as edging and stone chippings have been allowed. These are no longer allowed. Edging and loose items such as stone chippings obstruct mowing and strimming and can be dangerous. Any new graves are not allowed to have these items:

- edging of any type around the grave,
- stones, gravel, chippings, slate or pebbles.