

## **ARRANGING A BURIAL in the churchyards at St John's, Boldre or St Mary's, South Baddesley**



### **Who can be buried in our churches?**

- Any resident of their own parish;
- Any temporary resident who dies within the parish;
- Any member of St Mary's or St John's (wherever they live) if they are on that particular church's Electoral Roll (not to be confused with the voters' Electoral Register);

If you are not resident in the parish, and not on the church's electoral roll, it is not possible to be buried in the churchyard.

If you wish to place a coffin or ashes of someone who no longer lives in the

parish in an existing plot of a relative, that is permissible.

Sadly, the space for burials is finite, and the PCCs have been forced to make some rules, in line with the Church of England's guidance, for who may be buried here.

### **How do I check which parish I live in?**

Parish boundaries are often unexpected and be aware that the church nearest to your home *may not be your parish church*.

Please check by going to <https://www.achurchnearyou.com/>

### **How do I join the electoral roll?**

You are entitled to nominate yourself to be on the electoral roll of a parish if you are:

- baptised in the Church of England or another recognised church;
- over 16 years of age;
- live in the parish OR

- have habitually attended worship in the parish for the last six months.

The electoral roll is revised every year, and completely renewed every five years. Please contact the benefice office if you would like to nominate yourself, and you will be put in touch with the electoral roll officer of St Mary's or St John's.

### **Can I reserve a plot in advance?**

The PCCs of both parishes have taken the decision not to allow plots to be reserved or bought in advance.

### **What sort of memorial can be erected?**

One reason why burials in the churchyards are so popular is that these are exceptionally beautiful natural landscapes. To preserve their historic beauty, there are regulations about what sort of memorials can be erected. The PCC recognises that these are often more expensive,

because they are made of natural stone, but the few which have been installed which don't conform to the regulations prove how important it is to keep to the specifications set out in the churchyard regulations.

There are also very important Health and Safety considerations about the dimensions of any memorial, and there are some guidelines about the design and content of a memorial, so that it is consonant with a Christian place of burial, and the historic setting.

You may be given advice from well-meaning monumental masons which differs from this, but it is essential to have your design approved and signed by the vicar. The Chancellor's Regulations state that any designs which have been erected in the past which do not conform to these specifications *do not constitute a precedent for future memorials*.

Parishes request that graves are either marked with an approved gravestone within three years of a burial, or the

grave is returned to a natural state, in keeping with the churchyards' natural state. If families do not wish to erect a headstone, a loved one's name may be inscribed on a memorial roll within the church and/or on a gift (for example, memorial windows, books and silver given in someone's memory), or a wall-mounted plaque.

### **How to arrange a funeral in church**

You may arrange a funeral

- in church with the committal in the churchyard (if applicable)
- or in the church with the committal in church, followed by a "Direct cremation" which generally means there will be no-one present at the crematorium. (This arrangement is very suitable when it is difficult when mourners are travelling from a distance, or mourners are elderly.)
- Alternatively, you may wish to have a funeral in church, and a

cremation with the committal (often a few days later, when it can be arranged).

- You might prefer to have a cremation with the committal on one day, and organise a memorial service in church at a later date, with or without the ashes present.

Ashes can usually be collected from the crematorium within 2-3 days, for burial in a churchyard, or to keep and to be scattered at a chosen site.

Scattering ashes without a certificate of burial may be done by anyone elsewhere, but ashes may not be deposited in a churchyard without a service of committal, a certificate of burial and the burial place recorded.

**For all enquiries and details of current fees:** please contact the Church Office 01509 673484 (Monday, Wednesday, Thursday 10am-12noon) [admin@bsbbchurches.com](mailto:admin@bsbbchurches.com)  
[www.bsbb.org.uk](http://www.bsbb.org.uk)