



Churchyards are important, not only to those whose loved ones might be buried there, but also in establishing the setting of the church and often providing a haven for wildlife. The monuments, structures and boundaries contained within and enclosing the churchyard are all subject to Legal Regulations set by the Diocese. These apply to all graves and ashes buried in the Garden of Remembrance and cover in detail what can be used as memorials and what can be placed in the churchyard. The regulations apply to all existing graves as well as new ones, and these rules are a simplified version.

The full version is available from links on our website, and a copy is also on the noticeboard in the church porch. The full version also gives full details of what types of memorial are permitted and how to gain permission for memorial headstones. This permission must be granted before a headstone can be erected or changed- for example to add additional names or inscriptions.

As someone who looks after a grave you might wonder how you can help in respecting the memory of your loved one whilst, at the same time, complying with the churchyard rules. To this end, we would like to offer you some pointers:

Fresh Flowers



We love to see fresh flowers– they cheer the downhearted, honour the departed and bring colour and life to our graveyard. **A single vase for flowers may be placed on each full grave** unless this is already built into the headstone base. However, please maintain the appearance of the grave by removing flowers once they have withered. Uncut flowers and wreaths can be left on a grave after a funeral, but please remove and take with you any plastic wrappings for disposal by recycling where possible.

Artificial Flowers



Artificial flowers are not permitted on graves as these rapidly deteriorate, are bad for the environment and are contrary to our policies as an Eco Church.

The churchwardens, on behalf of the PCC, reserve the right to remove plastic and other artificial flowers from the churchyard.

Remembrance Day poppies and traditional Christmas wreaths may be placed on graves, but they should be removed after no more than 2 months.

Other Flowers and Plants



Bulbs or annual plants may be planted on a grave, but they should be removed at the end of their season.



Because of their tendency to become rather large, perennial plants, trees, bushes and shrubs **must not** be planted on **graves or in pots**. In rare cases special permission may be given by faculty.

Toys, Ornaments, Chippings and Fencing



No ornaments or other items should be placed on a grave **except for flowers or wreaths**.



Where the grave is that of a child, a **single** toy or tribute may be placed on the grave for six months after the burial.

The regulations **do not permit any chippings, fencing, glass vases or other items** to be placed in the churchyard except by faculty permission.

Maintenance Safety

We have a team of volunteers who happily give their time to mow the grass, tend the flower borders and generally keep the graveyard tidy. It is important that we make these activities as safe as possible, and you can help by:



- Keeping the grave tidy and clear of items such as unused flower vases.
- Not placing any glass, plastic items or chippings etc. on the grave.
- Removing any non-permitted items.

Removal of soil and levelling of graves

Following burial, it is sometimes tempting to level the grave to that of others in the churchyard. However, we ask that no soil is removed from the grave for at least six months after burial to allow for settlement of the grave. Once the ground has settled the grave can be levelled and should be set to grass. At this point bulbs or annual plants may be planted. As the churchyard is consecrated ground soil must not be removed from it or any part of the churchyard. Where the grave is grassed, the maintenance team will mow the area in line with our Eco Church policies. For this reason it is important to keep all areas level and clear as far as possible to assist in safe mowing or strimming.

We hope the above information will help and guide you in keeping and tending the grave of a loved one so that it remains safe, attractive and respectful. Should you have any questions, either now or in the future, please do not hesitate to contact the Churchwardens whose contact details are in the Church porch or on our website.

The full Churchyard Regulations can be found in the church porch or via the link below or our Church website.

<https://gloucester.anglican.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/Diocese-of-Gloucester-Churchyard-Regulations-Fourth-Edtion-27-07-19-2-2.pdf>

Churchwardens Cam St George

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Approved by the PCC of St George Cam – 21 September 2023