

Welcome

St Mary's Churchyard is visited by many people who value its sense of peace and calm. It is a place where loved ones have been laid to rest in peace and are visited by family and friends for many years.

The Churchyard is maintained by the Parochial Church Council (PCC) of St Mary's Church and many people comment on how well it is cared for. Individual graves are tended by the families and friends of those who rest there.

Families work in partnership with each other and with the PCC to ensure that the Churchyard continues to be a place of reverence and beauty for all.

Working together to keep St Mary's Churchyard as a place where people feel comforted, calm and peaceful

The overall atmosphere of the Churchyard depends on a balance between the individual memorials tended. While some of the regulations are for safety reasons, others are to keep the overall aspect of the Churchyard welcoming for everyone.

The regulations drawn up by the Diocese of York are to ensure the balance is kept. If you would like a copy, please contact the Parish Office or the website:

www.stmarys-nunthorpe.org.uk

An English Churchyard

Local Stone

You will notice that headstones in the Churchyard are of York Stone, fitting in with the material from which the Church itself is built and blending in with the surrounding countryside.

Country plants

There are snowdrops in some parts of the Churchyard, originally planted in graves and now spreading.

Small bulbs are ideal for a natural, country site. In the boundary grass under the trees there are naturalized bulbs which come up year after year, announcing the arrival of Spring and reminding us of new life after a long winter.

Other bulbs which are suitable for planting are short daffodil and narcissus varieties (the tall ones tend to blow over). Small, hardy corms such as small cyclamen (for example, coum and hederifolium varieties) may naturalize.

Whatever is planted should be able to be mown once the foliage has died back after flowering.

Primroses (*primula vulgaris*) and cowslips are other countryside and hedgerow plants which naturalize well. A carpet of snowdrops followed by primroses and small daffodils looks natural and requires low maintenance.

Their colours will fit in well with the surrounding landscape and continue the sense of timeless English peace.

Wildlife

Butterflies, bees and other wildlife will visit the Churchyard when there are plants of the nearby fields and hedgerows.

Visiting the Churchyard

The Churchyard is open for people to come whenever they are able to. There are benches so that visitors can spend time absorbing the peace and calm of the Church and its surroundings.

Green waste bins for (biodegradable) materials are provided at the church entrance steps, church North side and the Millennium Garden. Non degradable items such as plastic, wreaths with wire and wrapping should be deposited in the black bins. Please ensure that bouquets of flowers are unwrapped before placing on the graves and the plastic discarded carefully, in the black bins as it blows around other graves.

If you have any questions about what is appropriate for the grave you are tending, please do not hesitate to contact the Parish Office or Churchwardens.

Maintaining the Churchyard

The Vicar and Churchwardens are committed to handing the Churchyard on to the future with the same character we have inherited from the past.

For this reason we draw the attention of all those who tend graves to the Churchyard Regulations, so that we can work together to provide a fitting resting place for the Parishioners of Nunthorpe.

We invite all who tend and care for graves to check that you are working within the Churchyard Regulations, summarised in this leaflet.

If you find that there are aspects of your grave which are outside the regulations, we ask you to arrange to remove them as soon as possible. Do please speak to the Vicar if you are unsure and would like advice. If you would like help to restore your grave to be within the regulations, we will be pleased to assist as we understand it is not always easy for relatives to visit.

We very much hope you will find comfort visiting St Mary's Churchyard and peace in the beauty of the surroundings.

A summary for your guidance Expressing our love and care in keeping with an English Churchyard

Fresh flowers are always delightful and add to the beauty of the churchyard. When they fade, they can be placed in the green bins for recycling.

Bulbs planted to naturalize; snowdrops, short daffodils or narcissi and hardy cyclamen bring pleasure every Spring and return into the grass.

Christmas wreaths of natural foliage are welcome from mid-December to the end of January, when the bulbs will take over.

Some items which are not permitted because they are dangerous or out of keeping with the Churchyard:

Glass or other breakable or sharp items
Pictures, portraits or photographs
Statues or ornaments of any kind
Trees, shrubs or *any plants* in the ground itself (*Regulation Oct 05*).
Birdbaths.
Kerbs, railings or chains.
Artificial flowers (plastic, etc) except Remembrance poppies around 11th Nov.
Chippings, gravel, etc.
Memorials in the shape of a book, cross or heart.
Vases, unless incorporated into the headstone or sunk into the ground.

St Mary's Churchyard is governed by the Churchyard Regulations of the Diocese of York. In addition, St Mary's is governed by Faculty for memorials for Cremated Remains.

The Parish of St Mary the Virgin Nunthorpe in Cleveland



St Mary's Churchyard

- ❖ a place of peace and calm
- ❖ around a beautiful English Parish Church
- ❖ with a breathtaking view of Roseberry Topping
- ❖ where people come to reflect
- ❖ to give thanks, to find solace
- ❖ and to remember loved ones

The view of Roseberry Topping and the Cleveland Hills is renowned and much-admired. As the weather and the seasons change, the view is always stunning and often inspiring. The Churchyard has a timelessness rare in our busy world, where past, present and future meet and we can stop and spend time in peace.

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