

# St Philip and St James, Hucclecote Churchyard Policy



*The Churchyard at St Philip and St James is now closed for burials and for interment of ashes. However if you have an existing family plot in the churchyard, ashes may be interred within that plot. Ashes may also be interred (without a casket – this is called an ‘infusion of ashes’) in the Garden of Remembrance. Please make your enquiry to the Church Office; or a funeral director will be able to make a request on your behalf.*

*Minister: a minister of the church will be very pleased to conduct a short, simple service of interment of ashes. Please contact the church office early so that a mutually convenient time can be arranged.*

*Cost: there is a statutory cost for interment of ashes. Please enquire at the office, as the costs are set nationally by the Church of England and may change.*

## **General churchyard policy**

Due to the Diocese of Gloucester Churchyard Regulations in place for all churchyards, the only items allowed to be placed on graves and cremation plots are fresh flowers and wreaths.

### Flowers

- Cut flowers must be placed in removable containers, or laid on the grave. The church has the right to remove cut flowers and wreaths when they become untidy, and any other items not deemed within the Diocesan Regulations. Christmas wreaths must be removed by the end of January.
- You are asked to be responsible for keeping your family grave tidy and fresh looking.
- Bulbs and small annuals may be planted in the soil directly over a grave, but not in the area around it.
- There is not space for families to plant trees and shrubs in the churchyard.
- No flowers, plants or bulbs may be planted in the Garden of Remembrance.

### Other memorials, e.g. seats, statues etc.

- We cannot accept offers of such memorials unless there is a current project at the church for erection of such an item, in which case you would be welcome to contribute towards it.

## **Memorials: Guidelines for existing and new memorials**

Thank you for your enquiry concerning placing a memorial in the church yard.

These guidelines follow the regulations for all church yards set out by Gloucester Diocese.

It is essential to obtain permission before any memorial is ordered or placed. Permission is given in the form of a signed approval by the parish priest (vicar). The Monumental mason may request permission on your behalf. Alternatively please make your enquiry through the church office.

All permission is at the discretion of the parish priest.

### Permitted memorials on graves and over cremated remains:

- Simple upright grave markers
- Sloping ‘open-book’ memorials
- Wooden crosses
- Additional inscriptions on existing memorials
- For burial of ashes within an existing grave : simple flush horizontal markers

### Size and shapes:

- Maximum permitted dimensions of a memorial above ground are  
H: 1200mm (47 $\frac{1}{4}$ ""); W: 900mm (35"); Thickness: 150mm (5 $\frac{1}{2}$ "")
- Horizontal plaques over cremated remains: Max dimensions 457mm x 305mm (18" x 12")
- Horizontal ledgers, kerbs, chippings, or sculpture are not permitted. Neither are crosses other than wooden.

### Lettering and decoration:

- Lettering may be incised or in relief and infilled if you wish. Wording should be simple, and the parish priest will be happy to advise you.
- Symbols may be included, but permission is not given for photographs or ceramic portraits.

### Materials:

Please discuss these with the mason. White marble and certain polished surfaces are not permitted.

### Maintenance of Memorials.

- The church is not responsible for maintenance of memorials, and memorials are not covered by church insurance. If a memorial becomes hazardous the church is entitled to lay it flat or ask for its replacement.

### **Other ways to remember your loved one:**

- There is a memorial book in the church and you may have the name of your loved one entered on a date of your choice. Please apply to the church office. There is a small fee for the calligraphy.
- Annual flowers: you may like to give a donation to the church on a certain day – or by bankers order on a certain day each year - so that a special pedestal of flowers in the church can be dedicated to the person you wish to remember.
- Contribution to upkeep of the churchyard: once off or regular donations can be made via the church office and will greatly help the members of the church in the upkeep of the churchyard for all to enjoy.

Thank you for reading and acknowledging these guidelines.

Vicar and PCC of St Philip and St James, Hucclecote.

Church Office: The Stone Building, Larkhay Road, Hucclecote, Gloucester GL3 3NS. Tel. (01452) 372177  
E-mail: [stpandstj.hucc@mail.com](mailto:stpandstj.hucc@mail.com) Office Hours: 10.00am-12.30pm, Monday-Friday

***The Policy was implemented from 1<sup>st</sup> March 2015, and revised on 10<sup>th</sup> August 2018. We ask existing owners of graves and plots to comply by it so that the churchyard can be enjoyed fairly by all.***

The Diocesan regulations may be found at:

[www.gloucester.anglican.org/parish-resources/church-buildings-and-churchyards/churchyards/](http://www.gloucester.anglican.org/parish-resources/church-buildings-and-churchyards/churchyards/)

*Jesus said: 'I am the resurrection and the life.  
Those who believe in me will never die,  
but will have everlasting life'*