

Churchyard Regulations at St Mary's

Rules and regulations governing the churchyard are made by the Chancellor of the Diocese of Chichester, not by the local clergy and we must abide by the Chancellor's rulings.

The Chancellor publishes a document called *Directions* [a summary of which is below], with the rules.

Bodies may no longer be buried in the churchyard, but ashes can still be interred: *Directions* governs the kind of memorial which is allowed to mark an interment.

Usually you would engage the services of a competent Stone Mason (again there are many of these working in our area). A reputable Stone Mason will be familiar with *Directions*, can advise you in more detail and may attend to the necessary paperwork on your behalf.

Currently the Chancellor favours what is called a Horizontal Ledger stone to mark ashes interment. This is a piece of stone 12 inches square, set flush with the turf (so that a mower may pass over without damage), engraved with details of the person whose ashes are buried there.

There are fees governing the interment of ashes (these change each year on 1 January), and at the moment (2019) this is how they stand:

The fee for interring the cremated remains will be £162 (a cheque may be made payable to "The PCC of East Preston"). If you do decide to pursue the installation of a Horizontal Ledger the Stone Mason will make their own separate charge, and the parish will charge an additional £73.

Summary of the Chancellor's Directions regarding a Horizontal Ledger:

I. Material:

The following stone is permitted:

Limestone: Portland; Hornton; Purbeck or Horsham; Nabresina; Derbyshire; Caen/Normandy; Hopton Wood

Sandstone: York

Slate: Blue/Black (Cornish); Green (Westmoreland); Grey/Blue (Welsh)

Granite: Light to medium grey

2. Appearance:

Polished stone or mirror finish is not permitted. Coloured lettering is not permitted save as follows:

Nabresina limestone may have the lettering picked out in contrasting matt;

Slate may have the lettering picked out in off-white matt;

Granite may have the lettering picked out in off white matt.

3. Inscription:

Incumbents should require an accurate design of the proposed inscription before approving an application. Photographs or representations of objects or motifs

such as a child's toy are not permitted nor the use of 'pet names.' Bronze or

ceramic inserts are not to be used. Badges, crests or emblems may be used

provided they are seemly and appropriate for the deceased. Any representation

will need to be designed so that it may be accurately cut by a skilled craftsman.

Masons' or carpenters' names, signs or marks may be inscribed on any monument

provided their position and appearance are unobtrusive having regard to the

monument as a whole.

4. Prohibitions

For the avoidance of doubt, the following are not permitted:

i. kerbs, railings, fencing or chippings;

ii. integral sockets in the base of a headstone for a flower vase;

iii. memorials in the shape of vases, hearts, open books;

iv. memorials incorporating photographs or portraits;

v. mementoes, windmills, toys or little animals;

vi. the use of 'pet names'

vii. artificial flowers.