

## Re-use of churchyards for burials

Our churchyards form not only a cherished part of our shared national heritage and landscape but also, critically, an important demonstration of our mission, witness and beliefs.

It is right therefore that we employ a high degree of care and reverence in their maintenance and management.

In the past, graves were largely unidentified and re-use of burial grounds was common, but today space is at a premium in most churchyards. [Guidance](#) has been issued on the appropriate, sensitive and legal re-use of existing burial grounds.

In summary, the guidance:

- Encourages the re-use of grave spaces over 100 years old (para 3)
- Allows for further burials of relations in existing graves in open churchyards on the authority of the minister and without a faculty, subject to certain conditions (paras 7 9)
- States that there is nothing to prevent land which has been used for burials in the past being used again for that purpose (para 10), noting that:
  - in the case of individual burials, no faculty is required although it would be wise to proceed with caution lest existing remains are disturbed (para 11)
  - in the case of the preparation of a larger, general area for re-use, a faculty should be sought and the project carefully planned and publicised (para 13)
- Points out that monuments may not be permanently removed or re-sited without a faculty but may be lifted temporarily to allow for further interment or additional inscriptions to be added (paras 15, 16)

If further information or clarification is required, please contact the Diocesan Registrar on 07989 205926 or email [bristolregistry@stoneking.co.uk](mailto:bristolregistry@stoneking.co.uk).

**More**

[Guidance on re-use of churchyards for burials](#)