

# **Summary of Churchyard Guidelines & Regulations at St. George's Benenden**

For families considering a burial or interment of ashes in the churchyard at St. George's, Benenden.

Please read this Summary, and the full supporting document if you have any concerns, prior to committing to an interment or burial.

**Please sign and return the Agreement**

January 2018

## Summary of Churchyard Regulations and Guidelines:

Increasing concern has been expressed about the appearance of various parts of this churchyard, especially in the context of what is required under the Diocesan Churchyard Regulations 2014 and the Diocesan Churchyard Guidelines. The Regulations are effectively nationally applicable bye-laws which are framed in such a way as to provide a balance between the sometimes conflicting needs of:

- (i) ensuring an acceptable appearance of a churchyard
- (ii) maintenance issues and
- (iii) the wishes of friends and relatives of the deceased

Items not permitted under the Regulations and Guidelines are:

- artificial flowers, miniature fences and chippings (The latter two causing hazards and difficulties for those who regularly maintain the churchyard.
- rose bushes and other shrubs must not be planted on/in individual graves.

To bring the churchyard within the guidelines set out in the Regulations and Guidelines, we will be starting to remove all non-permitted items from March 2018. Items removed will be recorded and kept for twelve months, and if they are not claimed within this period they will be suitably disposed of. (Notices to this effect have been on display in the churchyard since November 2017, and also made known in the Village magazine at the same time.)

The Guidelines and the Regulations follow. Please read these and ensure that any memorial or grave of a loved one complies, so that all may continue to enjoy our beautiful rural churchyard for many years to come. Thank you.



Revd David Commander  
Rector  
St. George's Church, Benenden

*Contact details:*  
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# Agreement

## St. George's Church Benenden

### CHURCHYARD REGULATIONS

Human remains and ashes may be buried in the Churchyard, but families seeking permission need to be aware that there are strict regulations regarding the appearance and type of monuments that are used to remember those who have died.

As the Regulations explain, they seek to provide a careful balance between the special nature of the Churchyard, of its importance in the community as a whole, and the aspirations of families and friends of those whose earthly remains are to be interred in the Churchyard.

The document "Churchyard: Guidelines & Regulations" details all the information from the Diocese of Canterbury concerning both the 2014 Churchyard Regulations, and the Guidelines. When graves are dug and backfilled the existing turf is carefully lifted and replaced. Families making applications for any memorial need to be aware of the following basic points:

- Memorials with kerbs and chippings, artificial flowers, additional flower containers and artefacts are not permitted.
- The planting of ornamental trees, shrubs or herbaceous plants either on or around the burial plots and graves and around the churchyard is not permitted.
- If these items are introduced the Parochial Church Council are within their rights to take action to remove them.

All headstones and any other memorial are subject to the Canterbury Diocese Churchyard Regulations. All stonemasons are aware of these Regulations and can guide you through what is permitted. They will write to the incumbent to authorise any memorial before it is installed.

I have read and understand the conditions under which a burial at St. George's Churchyard, Benenden can take place, and I have been supplied with a copy of the document, "Churchyard Guidelines & Regulations: To assist families regarding the burial or interment of ashes in the churchyard at St. George's, Benenden"

Signed.....

Name and address .....

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In respect of ..... (deceased)

Date.....

*The completed form should be returned to: The Rectory, The Green, Benenden, Kent, TN17 4DL.*