



Churchyard, Remembrance & Burials

Important Notes – please read

1. Background

- 1.1. Although our churchyard has been closed for new burials for some years, we have a *Garden of Remembrance* and are glad to allow interment of cremated remains ('ashes') through the proper process in that garden and in an existing grave elsewhere in the churchyard.
- 1.2. Our regulations are based on those issued by the Diocese of Hereford in 2008, found at www.hereford.anglican.org/churchyardregulations or by request from our office. But note the local exception at 2.5 below.
- 1.3. Since our churchyard has little space for new graves, and since the issue of 1.2 in 2008, we have not allowed the previous local practice of vertical headstones to mark interred ashes, rather keeping **all new interments** to the new *Garden of Remembrance* set up in 2008. **See 2.4 & 2.5 below.**
- 1.4. Since September 2015, we have allowed the identity of those interred to be permanently marked, with a subsequent interment into the plot only for an agreed family member (as is normal practice).

2. Conditions

- 2.1. Given an existing burial of sufficient depth, it is sometimes possible (and then allowable) to inter a relative's body above it. You would need to liaise with a funeral director who will in turn liaise with St Paul's to be sure.
- 2.2. In general, most existing graves will have sufficient depth for a further interment of ashes. Again please liaise through a funeral director to confirm this is possible. Any additional inscription needs to be added to the existing headstone: it is **not** permissible to add a tablet (as in 2.5 below) on a mown grave.
- 2.3. Any interment of a deceased person with a home outside the parish is by permission and at the discretion of the vicar only.
- 2.4. Ashes may be interred either loose or in a biodegradable container (eg. a wooden casket) by arrangement through the Benefice Office. Most funeral directors will then mark the plot with a small name label.
- 2.5. In due course (typically 6 - 12 months after interment) the plot may be marked with a **flat** tablet Memorial Stone, **not exceeding 15 inch square**, and otherwise complying fully with 1.2 above. No raised memorial is allowed. Any of the *Materials for Memorials* listed in the Diocesan *Churchyard Regulations* is acceptable.
- 2.6. No other object or material is allowed except as detailed in 2.8: for example flower vases or loose stones since they obstruct grass cutting.



- 2.7. We encourage fresh flowers to be placed on the plot immediately, or soon, after interment and on the anniversary of death but those for the latter will need to be removed by the Church after one month to enable grass cutting to take place. Please note that *artificial* flowers are strongly discouraged, with the exception of Remembrance Poppies and Christmas or Easter wreaths which the Church will remove, typically after one month. See below.
- 2.8. While we are mindful of the long slow journey of bereavement, **after 24 months** from the interment, **we will remove** extra objects or material ourselves. If we move fresh flowers to mow the grass, they will be carefully placed at row ends. Other objects will be carefully placed in a box nearby, but of course we could not be sure whether they may be moved then by others, so would not advise people to rely on this.
- 2.9. We are an **Eco Church** and seek to take great care of our churchyard working towards carbon neutrality and promoting biodiversity with minimal footprint. Please use our **composting bins *only* for fully compostable material**, taking care to remove any other materials.

3. Procedure

- 3.1. Normally an interment is arranged through your funeral director, who will liaise with us and deal with any forms and fees to St Paul's.
- 3.2. If you'd like to place a stone tablet, simply visit a chosen stonemason (a funeral director can point you to one), making sure they are aware of these notes and regulations *and* the Diocesan *Churchyard Regulations* . They will request permission from us as part of the process, and deal with any fee to St Paul's.

Rev Preb Nick Armstrong

Vicar of St Paul's Church, Tupsley