

Flowers

Fresh or cut flowers should be placed directly on the grave. We ask that they should be removed from any plastic wrapping, bows or temporary containers, and artificial flowers are not used as they do not bio-degrade, with exception of remembrance poppies between 20 October and 20 December in any year.

Flowers may be placed in removable vases sunk into the ground.

Bulbs may be planted on the grave but not shrubs, hedging, conifers or other perennial plants.

The PCC may remove flowers and wreaths, at their discretion, if they have wilted or died, or are placed in any area which needs tending by our volunteers looking after the Churchyard. Christmas Wreaths may be left for a short time over the appropriate period and we will remove artificial flowers and wreaths in February and October.

Vases

The headstones base may have an integrated vase or fixed memorial vase, but this vase should be no larger than 1ft x 8in x 8in (30cm x 20cm x 20cm).

Vases not fixed to a base must be sunk into the ground so that they are flush with the ground.

Memorials

Materials

Stones should be natural and of a non-reflective finish.. Stones allowed are Limestone; Slate; Light grey granite; Blue or Rustenburg Grey Granite (Charcoal). All matt finish. Wooden crosses must be unvarnished

Upright stones:

Height - a maximum of 150cm (5ft) and minimum 75cm (2ft 6in) when measured from the surface of the ground.

Width - a maximum of 3ft (90cm) and minimum 1ft 3in (37.5cm).

A child's upright memorial may be smaller, but the minimum dimensions are 45cm (1ft 6in) high by 30cm (1ft) in width.

Crosses:

Wooden or stone crosses, including Celtic crosses not exceeding 6ft high are permitted.

Plain open books:

Plain open books without elaborate decoration (such as wings, supports, tassels or other ornamentation) and of appropriate stone are allowed to a maximum size of 45cm (1ft 6in) high by 1ft 6in high (75cm) on an appropriately sized base (see Plinths or Base Stones).

Plinths or Base Stones

A headstone or cross may stand on a plinth of the same stone provided it is integral to the design and does not project more than 4" (100mm) in any direction or more than 3ft (900mm) in width in total.

Horizontal ledger stones:

Allowed to a size of between 150cm(5ft) by 75cm (2ft 6") in length and between 90cm (3ft) and 37.5cm (1ft 3") in width.

Position

A headstone should not be placed within 120cm (4ft) of the church's outer wall.

Inscriptions

Inscriptions can give full Christian names and dates. Nicknames or Mum, Dad etc. are allowed if placed within inverted commas or brackets.

Simple descriptions such as 'farmed in this village for fifty years' 'Much-loved father and grandfather' 'Lover of animals' 'Mother and friend' are allowed, as are Scriptural texts and suitable lines from poems or literature. These are generally placed within inverted commas.

Inscriptions should be incised into the stone or carved in relief.

Inscriptions may be painted in black, white, gold or a colour that harmonises with the underlying stone. (Please note that due to the nature of the climate in this country gilded lettering tends to deteriorate rapidly).

The stonemason's name may be discreetly inscribed on the reverse of the stone.

A regimental badge or insignia from the armed forces is allowed provided written authority is given from the relevant branch of the force in question.

Engravings

Small well-carved engravings are permitted. For example: Christian symbols, flora, fauna or an item of particular relevance to the person commemorated (such as a musical instrument, tractor or motorcycle).

Engravings should be uncoloured and not cover any more than one fifth of the face of the memorial.

Cremated Remains and Flat Stones

Cremated remains may be buried in a churchyard either in the dedicated area set aside for this purpose or elsewhere in the churchyard in a nominated plot or grave.

They should not be scattered or strewn and the burial must be carried out in the presence of a licensed minister. The stone to commemorate the deceased should be a small flat tablet laid flush with the ground to a maximum size of 30cm x 37cm (1ft x 1ft 3in). No fixed vases or other objects may be placed on stones, but the stone may contain a sunken vase holder.

Such stones may also be placed over cremated remains which are interred into an existing full grave.

Items strictly prohibited ☐

Both a headstone and ledger stone on the same grave are not permitted

Railings, ornaments, lights, photographs, ceramic portraits, children's toys, models, garden ornaments, windmills, balloons, wind chimes and any other trinkets. Unless on a new grave when items may be permitted for a period of up to 13 months. After this time the PCC will remove the items

Any shaped stones not included under the section headed 'Memorials'

Advertisements or trademarks

Plastic plates on the reverse of the stone with the stonemason's name.

Engravings of TV or cartoon characters (such as the Pepper Pig, Thomas the tank engine, Winnie-the-Pooh)

Artificial flowers

Items which may very occasionally be allowed with permission.

Natural boulder shaped memorials, with single sloping face to carry an inscription. Individually designed and hand-carved memorials which do not fall within the measurements as described above.

Badge or insignia from organisations or clubs (sporting or otherwise) other than the armed forces.

QR codes. Please note, however that national guidance suggests these are rarely permitted in churchyards.

Kerbs and Chippings unless in exceptional circumstances (please do not purchase any such items before permission is granted)

White marble or polished black marble stones in exceptional circumstances (please do not purchase any such items before permission is granted) ☐

If you would like to talk to someone about any of these regulations please contact

Revd Alison Morley

01985 840187

upperwylyevalleyteam@gmail.com

The graveyards are carefully tended by volunteers and the Parochial Church council (the PCC) oversees the work to ensure that your precious memorials are treated with the upmost reverence.

Please do remember that the care of the memorial and its safety and stability are the responsibility of the family



*Growing - in the
love of God*

Guidance for Families Churchyard Matters

This leaflet contains key information from the Chancellor of the Diocese on various legal matters relating to churchyards.



Your stone mason should be aware of the information which is available in this leaflet, however this pamphlet is intended to aid you with the general guidelines, and will take you through the Churchyard Regulations made by the Chancellor of the Diocese of Salisbury and which took effect from the 1st July 2016.

More detailed guidance is available in the Churchyard Regulations, in the Chancellor's General Guidance on Churchyard Matters and from the Registrar

Tel: 01722 432390

