

## Churchyard Guidance

### *Rights of Burial and Interment of Ashes*

The following have a right to burial or interment of ashes in the churchyard:

- People who have at any time been resident in the Parish
- Those whose names are on the Church Electoral Roll
- Family members of either of the above

The Rector may in exceptional circumstances permit the burial of other people.

### *Monuments in the Churchyard*

The Rector or his representatives can approve the design and installation of monuments provided they are within the guidelines of the Diocese of Chichester (see below). It should be noted that in addition the written consent of the Rector is required in all cases.

If the design of a monument is outside these guidelines an application can be made to the Chancellor of the Diocese. Any costs involved in this process are the responsibility of the applicant.

Any changes to the appearance of or inscription on the monuments also require the written consent of the Rector.

### *Care and Upkeep of the Churchyard*

The care and upkeep of the churchyard remains the responsibility of the Rector and Parochial Church Council (PCC).

This upkeep does not include the maintenance of individual monuments which remain the responsibility of the next-of-kin.

The placing of flowers is permitted provided they are removed when spent or withered.

No shrubs or artificial flowers are permitted.

## Churchyard Regulations (Diocese of Chichester)

### *Headstones*

No more than 4ft nor less than 2ft 6ins in height (1200mm, 750mm) from the surface of the ground.

No more than 3ft nor less than 1ft 8ins wide (900mm, 500mm).

No more than 6ins nor less than 3ins thick (150mm, 75mm).

A base forming an integral part of the design of a headstone may be included provided it does not project more than 2ins (50mm) beyond the headstone in any direction and provided that it is fixed on a foundation slab (which may be of any suitable material) which itself is fixed flush with the ground and extending 3-5ins (75-125mm) all round so that a mower may freely pass over it. The base may not include provision of a socket for a vase.

### *Materials*

All monuments to be of hard wood, whether native or imported, painted softwood or of the following limestones: Portland, Purbeck, Derbyshire, York, Hopton, Nabresina, French or Portuguese.

No part of any monument in stone is to be mirrored or highly polished beyond a good matt finish. Lettering may not be lead-filled or painted in white or in black or in any gloss colour or gilded silver or gold. If lettering on stone monuments is to be painted at all it must be in a low contrast colour with a matt finish.

The Rector will require an accurate design of the proposed inscription.

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## Memorial Arts

The following craftsmen make headstones and cut letters by hand – designs arrived at in discussion with family members - as opposed to the machine made headstones that the undertakers generally use.

- Mr Paul Wehrle  
46 London Road, Burgess Hill, West Sussex, RH15 8QX  
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