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Type into the search box 'churchyard regulations' Type into the search box 'fees' and the year.

**Churchyard Rights of Burial  
And Regulations**



**St George's &  
All Saints Churches**

## **Churchyard rights of burial and regulations**

### **Introduction**

When a loved one dies, it is a time of sadness and often of pain. We hope that you will find comfort in the friendships and family you have, and also the ministry of the Parish team. When someone is bereaved, the mind is so full of varying emotions that it is at times difficult to remember things. These notes are offered as an aide memoire.

### **Services**

**Harnham Parish can provide a funeral service within our church buildings of either St Georges or All Saints.**

The purpose of the service is to give thanks for the life of the departed, to comfort one another in grief and to commend the deceased to God. The service also includes a tribute and prayers. It can also contain hymns or music played on CD, according to each family's needs.

We can also offer a funeral service that offers Holy Communion, if it was the custom of the family or deceased to receive Holy Communion.

The Parish team are happy to help with any of the organisation of this service.

**The service can also take place at the Salisbury crematorium, with the Parish priest leading the service.**

The Services are usually arranged through the undertakers.

### **Finally...**

We hope that you will find the churchyard a place of peace and beauty and come often to visit the grave of your loved one.

### **A prayer from the Bible**

The Lord is my shepherd I shall not be in want  
He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside quiet  
waters  
He restores my soul.  
He guides me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.  
Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,  
I will fear no evil for you are with me  
Your rod and staff they comfort me  
You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies.  
You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows  
Surely goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life,  
And I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.  
Amen.

### **A simple prayer for yourself**

Loving God,  
Be with me today.  
Stay with me this night.  
Greet the dawn with me tomorrow.

Any other tokens of remembrance that have become unsightly or do not comply with the churchyard regulations will be removed.

### **Flowers**

Cut flowers, bedding plants or bulbs may be planted in front of the gravestone in an area of 2 feet wide by 5 feet long.

In an area of burial of ashes only fresh and silk artificial flowers are permitted.

In all areas no plastic flowers, except for Remembrance Day poppies and traditional Christmas wreaths, which should be removed after two months.

Please remove any flowers after they have withered.

### **Fees**

Some of the fees paid at a funeral and all of the fees for a memorial support the Parish work and upkeep of the churchyard.

The fees can be found on the Salisbury diocesan website.

### **Children's graves and memorials**

The Parish team understand that it is a particularly difficult time when young children die and will be as sympathetic as possible with tokens of remembrance.

Example of appropriate inscriptions and recommended stone with flower vase.



### **Rights of Burial.**

In Harnham, we have a churchyard at St George's and at All Saints. Anyone who is on the church electoral role at the time of their death or who has died whilst resident in the parish has a right to be buried here. Those who did not die within the parish have no rights to burial or the internment of ashes. This decision is at the discretion of the priest.

St George's church yard is only open for ashes to be interred and has no room for new grave spaces. All Saints church has room for graves and the internment of ashes.

If you have a family grave, it is possible for ashes to be interred into the grave space. Also some family graves are double depth and so have room for close family to be buried within the same grave space.

Christian burial is intended to provide a final resting place for your loved one. The transfer of remains from one place to another is not permitted, except in the most exceptional circumstances. It is illegal for ashes to be scattered and not usual for them to be split.

### **Memorials**

Any memorial over a grave cannot be erected without the permission of the Chancellor of the Diocese. The Chancellor has regulations about the size and shape and type of material used, as well as the wording on gravestones. The full regulations are set out in the Salisbury Diocesan regulations 2008. (See Salisbury diocesan website) and the permission of the Chancellor is called a faculty. (It is rather like planning permission for churches and churchyards.) In practice this authority is delegated to the incumbent, which in Harnham is the priest. The priest has to check that the request for a memorial conforms to the regulations. An application has to be made in writing and to be agreed before work starts. There is a fee for the application.

Application forms are held on the Salisbury diocesan website – see the link below and should be sent to Revd. Becky Roberts.

*Please do not allow a stonemason to begin work on a memorial before written confirmation that it can be installed in the churchyard.*

The memorial can only be erected *6 months* after the burial.

#### **Headstones allowed for graves:**

- “Headstones”, which includes those made of oak, not exceeding 150cm (5 ft.) high nor 90 cm (3 ft.) wide.
- Crosses, whether simple or Celtic and whether of stone or oak, not exceeding 180 cm (6 ft.) high nor 90 cm (4 ft.) wide.
- Flat stones not exceeding 150 cm (5 ft.) long or 90 cm (3 ft.) wide.
- Plain open books (that is without wings, elaborate supports or other ornamentation) not exceeding 45 cm (1ft 6 inches) high nor 75cm (2ft 6 inches) wide.
- Fixed memorial vases not exceeding 30cm by 20cm by 20 cm (1ft by 8 inches by 8 inches).
- Any base must be sunken 5cm (2 inches) at least below the surrounding ground, so that a mower can pass over it. Any flower container must also be sunk in the same way.
- Carvings of small crosses and flora and fauna may be used.
- An insignia of an armed force but no other insignia, this is with written permission from the armed force to the incumbent.

#### **Memorials for the Burial of Ashes:**

The above regulations also apply to memorials for the burial of Ashes.

#### **The Parish of Harnham recommends:**

- Memorial plates of 12 inches by 12 to 15 inches square
- Memorial plates with a flower vase holder that lies flush with the ground
- Memorial plates of two inches in depth that are laid flush with the ground
- Memorial plates which are made from ***Serena Stone, or dark grey honed granite, or Nabresina (crowned stone) that is not overly polished, or Portland stone.***

The Parish of Harnham churchyard regulations **do not allow**

- Any kerbing
- Any carved or moulded figures
- Installation of any gravel

- Photographs
- Flower vases unless they are integral to the headstone
- No glass vases
- Polished stone memorials
- Any plastic attachments
- Artificial plastic flowers (silk allowed)
- Trees or small shrubs

Churchyard regulations are designed to preserve the beauty, peace and unity of the churchyard. The regulations differ from public cemeteries.

#### **Inscriptions**

They should be simple, dignified and reverent. If a nickname is to be included it should appear after the given name and in brackets or inverted commas as follows: .Robert (Bob) Smith.

Names such as “Mum” or “Dad” will be sympathetically considered at the incumbent’s discretion. Messages addressed to the deceased person may not be allowed by the incumbent but the chancellor will give consideration to an extension of the discretion as seems appropriate in individual cases. There should be no inscription on the arms of a cross.

#### **The following are not allowed:**

Trademarks and company names.

(The name of an individual crafts person may be incised on the reverse in letters no more than 13mm (½ inch) high. The undertaker or stone mason should be able to advise you on these matters.)

#### **Care of memorials and the churchyard**

Once the memorial is agreed and is then erected, the family or friends of the person who has died are responsible for keeping it in safe order.

The parish team tries to ensure that the churchyard grounds are kept in good order, with the mowing of the grass, lawn and the regular disposal of any artificial flowers or dead flowers.

Trees and small shrubs are not permitted; vases are not to be placed on top of graves or memorials and will be removed, in order to ensure the grass can be cut effectively.