



### **Churchyard Regulations 2016 – a summary**

There are a number of regulations relating to churchyards, particularly regarding the placement and care of memorials, made by the Chancellor of the Diocese of Norwich.

The Regulations cover the type of stone that can be used for memorials (a very wide range, except marble); the size of the memorial; lettering and pictures. The stone may not be mirror polished. Stonemasons are familiar with the Regulations and will be able to guide you. Please note, the design is sent by the Stonemason to the Incumbent (Vicar) for approval.

This leaflet is a summary of the main points in the Guidance.

#### **Size (measurements including the base):**

between 135cm (c.4ft 6ins) and 75cm (c. 2ft 6ins) high;  
between 90cm (c. 3ft) wide and 37.5cm (c. 1ft 3ins) wide;  
and between 15cm (c. 6ins) and 7.5cm (c. 3ins) thick (slate 5cm (c. 2ins)).

#### **Shape**

Memorials must have a flat face and be erected vertically from the ground (see separate note about plaques marking the interment of cremated remains).

## Vases

Vases may be incorporated into the base of the memorial (chrome or stone; glass containers are prohibited).

## Inscriptions and pictures

Inscriptions and pictures should be simple, dignified and reverent.

Pictures should have a clear Christian or traditional funerary symbolism, or reflect the life and work of the deceased. Lettering should be clearly incised or carved, and may be leaded or painted or gilded white, black, duck-egg blue, silver or gold – but no other colours. Pictures must be uncoloured and occupy no more than one-third of the face of the memorial. Portraits are not permitted.

## Prohibitions

Kerbs, railings, fencing or chippings as these create difficulty or danger when mowing.

Memorials in the shape of a specific object (such as a heart, boulder or open book).

Objects such as statues, toys, wind chimes, windmills, photographs and candles. These will be removed and the family advised either directly or by a notice on the grave, including how to arrange collection.

## Cremated Remains

Cremated remains must be interred, not scattered or strewn.

The burial must be carried out in the presence of ordained clergy or other licensed minister. Remains may be poured directly into the earth, or buried in a casket made of wood or other biodegradable material.

Cremated remains may be commemorated by tablets or plaques not exceeding 52.5cm (c. 1ft 9ins) square, and must be flush with the turf and may be laid at the time of the interment. A vase may be incorporated into the tablet.

## Plants and flowers

Bulbs and small annual plants may be planted in the soil of the grave (directly, or in a removable sunken container). It is the family's responsibility to keep this tidy and the PCC retains the right to mow over any planting that becomes unsightly.

Wreaths or cut flowers may be laid direct on any grave or in any vase incorporated into the base of the memorial. The PCC will remove any wilted flowers and wreaths (e.g. Christmas) once they become unsightly.

No artificial flowers – other than "silk" flowers, i.e. polyester/cotton mixture. The PCC retains the right to remove other artificial flowers without notice.

The maintenance of the memorial is the responsibility of the family. Occasionally, graves sink, which may cause the memorial to lean. The PCC has no responsibility over these matters, or indeed, storm or other damage.

Revd Sally Kimmis

Team Rector, Heart of Norfolk Benefice

June 2023