

The Parish Church of St. Aidan, Bamburgh



Churchyard Rules

2009

1. The Right to Burial and the Interment of Cremated remains.

The following have a legal right to be buried in the churchyard:

- Any parishioner
- Anyone who dies in the parish
- Anyone whose name (at the time of death) appears on the Church Electoral Roll

The following have local permission to be buried in the churchyard:

- The Widow or Widower of a person already buried in the churchyard
- A person who has lived the greater part of their life in the parish and has been closely connected to church life (the Vicar may seek advice of the wardens if necessary)
- An unmarried son or daughter whose parent(s) is buried in the churchyard

There is no right to be buried in a particular part of the churchyard unless a space has been reserved by Faculty.

A person living outside the parish wishing to be buried in the churchyard, or someone wishing to be buried in a particular place should seek the advice of the incumbent regarding the application for a Faculty.

2. Monuments

There is no automatic right to erect a monument (or headstone) and application should be made in writing, in the first instance, to the Vicar. No memorial or inscriptions shall be added without permission in writing.

Straightforward applications for monuments and inscriptions, clearly falling within these rules and Diocesan Guidelines may be authorised by the Vicar. Where authority of a Faculty is required this must be made to the Registrar of the Diocese (name and address available from the Vicar)

- **Materials:** All memorials should be made of natural stone or of hardwood. Stones that reflect the texture and colour of local buildings are to be preferred. No stone shall be wholly polished. Black, Blue and bright Red stones are not permitted, nor white, nor granite darker than Rustenberg grey; neither marble, nor synthetic stone nor plastic.

- **Size:** The memorial shall not be bigger than the following dimensions: 1200mm high, 900mm wide and 150mm thick.
- **Base:** If a base is to be allowed it should be made of stone like the memorial itself and shall not project more than 102mm in any direction except where a receptacle for flowers is provided, in which case this may extend up to 200mm.
- **Shape:** headstones need to be rectangular in design, and curved tops are preferred to straight-edged ones. Memorials in the shape of, for example, a heart or a book are not permitted.
- **Photographs:** Photographs and images of the deceased attached to the memorial are not allowed.
- **Etching:** designs etched onto the memorial – in keeping with the Christian ethos of the churchyard will be given consideration.
- **Kerbstones, chippings etc:** Kerbs, rails, chains, chippings and glass shades are not allowed.
- **Inscriptions:** The Vicar is authorised by the Chancellor to permit wording that is “simple and reverent”.
- **Trademarks:** No advertisement or trademark shall be inscribed on a memorial. The mason’s name may be inscribed at the side or on the reverse of a headstone in unpainted and unleaded letters no larger than 15mm in height.
- **Additional inscriptions:** Following a subsequent interment an additional inscription to the memorial may be made. Any such in addition should be authorised by the Vicar in writing and shall be consistent in letter, layout and wording with the original inscription.

3. Flowers

- Bulbs may be planted in the ground of the grave.
- Plants and flowers may be placed into either an integral container or a removable container (which shall be completely sunk into the ground)
- Wreaths and flowers may be laid on a grave – but should be removed when completely withered.
- Save in the case of artificial flowers placed in containers at the foot of the headstone, the PCC discourages parishioners from placing plastic artificial flowers and other items on graves and from leaving Christmas wreaths on graves beyond Candlemas.

4. Repair and Removal

The repair of memorials is the responsibility of the family concerned, but the PCC may act if the family cannot be traced or will not act. Action shall be taken if a memorial becomes unsafe (for example laying down a tall headstone which is leaning dangerously). No memorial may be removed without a Faculty.

5. Spacing

The spacing between the centre lines of each grave shall be 2.74m (9ft). The plot width and the length of each grave shall be not more than 2.74m (9ft).

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