

Christ Church Shamley Green Churchyard Guidelines
(Based on APPENDIX D
of the Guildford Diocesan Churchyard Regulations 2005)



1 Introduction

This extract from the Churchyard Regulations gives guidance on the procedure for burials and the interment of cremated remains within the churchyard. The full set of Diocesan Churchyard Regulations is available from the Vicar. Our churchyards are places of great beauty and historical value. The Regulations are designed to maintain and enhance these values with a minimum of bureaucracy. There are also practical reasons for some of the rules to allow for ease of maintenance. The family of the deceased bear the cost of any memorials and of maintaining them but they do not own the grave space and the Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the task of keeping the churchyard in good order.

2 Burials

Parishioners (including all those on the Church Electoral Roll), and others who die in the parish, have a right to burial in the churchyard if there is still space available. Permission for the burial of other persons may be granted by the Vicar. The Vicar will decide where a burial will take place but will endeavour to respect the family's wishes. There is a special procedure if you wish to reserve a particular grave space.

3 Memorials

3.1 Vicars have discretion to authorise the erection of any headstone or memorial tablet which falls within the types and classes authorised in Appendix A of the Regulations (Memorials in Churchyards). They may refuse to permit the erection of an authorised headstone if they believe it would be detrimental to the churchyard. However they have no discretion to allow the erection of a headstone that falls outside those authorised.

3.2 If individuals wish to erect a memorial which falls within the Vicar's discretion they should apply on form CR1 (available from the stonemason or Vicar). Permission is always required and no work should be ordered or put in hand until permission has been granted. It is helpful to consult the Vicar before an application is submitted. If individuals wish to erect a memorial which falls outside the Vicar's discretion they may apply for a Faculty giving the grounds for their request. The Vicar will advise them how to approach the Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC) before seeking a Faculty.

3.3 Bulbs and small annual plants may be planted in the turf of a grave being within the area previously excavated. No perennial plants (other than bulbs), shrubs or trees, including dwarf varieties, may be planted as in time these cause significant issues of maintenance and may encroach on neighbouring graves. Plants or flowers may be placed in a removable sunken container, but unless they are kept tidy, the PCC may treat the grave as part of the turf and mow over it. Wreaths or cut flowers may be laid directly on any grave or placed in any vase authorised by the Regulations. If a built-in vase ceases to be used for a period of twelve months or more, the PCC may insert a matching stone stopper in the vase hole. Artificial flowers of good quality may be placed on a grave, but both natural and artificial flowers will deteriorate after periods of time. The PCC may remove flowers of whatever kind and wreaths at their discretion if they judge them to be unsightly and all artificial flowers after two months.

4 Cremated Remains

Small vases of flowers or potted plants may be placed on an individual's plot or on the memorial tablet marking that plot. These should not encroach on neighbouring plots and may be removed by the PCC as above under 3.3. In general, space does not allow for planting of any kind. When the area is due to be strimmed or mown, all such items will be removed.

5 Approval

These guidelines have been approved by the Diocesan Registry and were adopted by the PCC on 21st September 2015.

6 Contact details

Please contact the Vicar with any queries; she is happy to advise you.

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