

# The Parish Church of St Andrew's Nuthurst



Information about  
our  
Churchyard



*Dear Friends,*

The team here at St Andrews Nuthurst join me in assuring you of our prayers during your time of bereavement. Our prayers are for that healing that only comes through God's love poured into our broken hearts as we wait in Christian hope for the resurrection of the dead. For well over a thousand years there has been a place of worship here stood as a symbol of this belief, that death is not the end. We are pleased to be able to continue to offer a final resting place for your loved one here in these ancient grounds of St Andrews church where many generations have said 'Farewell' and commended their loved one to mercy and love of God in Christ.

As you may know, the churchyard is maintained by a team of volunteers from our community. Throughout the year they give freely of their time and energy to maintain the natural beauty of the flora and fauna so that peace and timelessness of our churchyard may be a comfort to everyone who comes to visit it. Their work also helps to maintain the delicate biodiversity of the churchyard which enriches the heart of this Conservation Area. We very much value their commitment to this work.

Our aim is to be able to keep this ancient consecrated ground as a peaceful and beautiful sacred space for all to enjoy, both families and visitors who simply sit to take a moment to 'be' and reflect.

The appearance of our churchyard is important and to help maintain the tranquillity of such an important shared space there are requirements set out in the Churchyard Regulations which we are bound by law to comply with. These regulations govern what we can and cannot permit within the bounds of the churchyard.

These rules do change from time to time and the team here will ensure that we keep those who have a share in the upkeep and maintenance of this beautiful place are kept up-to-date with these requirements.

We humbly ask for all involved to cooperate and adhere to these rules set out in this leaflet and are intended to be of benefit to all. Please read them carefully. We are confident that all visitors and users of the churchyard will recognise the value of these regulations and the need to abide by them.

*With every blessing,*

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Angela Martin', with a period at the end. The signature is fluid and cursive.

*The Venerable Angela Martin*

*Archdeacon of Horsham*

*& Rector of Nuthurst and Mannings Heath Parish*

[nuthurst.rector@gmail.com](mailto:nuthurst.rector@gmail.com)

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*The Rectory, Nuthurst Street, Nuthurst, West Sussex. RH13 6LH*

# DIOCESE OF CHICHESTER CHURCHYARD REGULATIONS

Issue 5 April 2020

## **Responsibility for care and maintenance.**

Incumbents and priests-in-charge are temporary custodians not merely of the church building but, where there is one, of its burial ground. Responsibility for its care and maintenance rests with the PCC. Churchyards are an important feature of both rural and urban communities: an historic record of successive generations, a home for funerary monuments of architectural and aesthetic excellence, a setting for the church itself (many of which are listed buildings), and a place for reflection and prayer. It should be borne in mind that churchyards are different in their nature from municipal cemeteries. In addition, the upkeep of a churchyard is a considerable burden upon the limited resources of PCC funds.

## **Right to be buried.**

Parishioners, those named on the electoral roll, and those dying within the parish all have a legal right of burial in the parochial burial ground. This right is not restricted to the baptised nor to members of the worshipping community.

## **Particular features of a church burial.**

It is essential that the bereaved understand the meaning and consequences of burial in consecrated ground. Two particular features arise:

First, the nature of the rite of burial is to say 'farewell' to the deceased and to commend them to the mercy and love of God in Christ to await the transformation of resurrection. All burials, including those of cremated remains, in ground consecrated

according to the rites of the Church of England are to remain undisturbed.

Secondly, as the bereaved family you must understand that by seeking a burial in consecrated ground, you are submitting to the jurisdiction of the consistory court which regulates the type of headstone or other marker which may be erected. This jurisdiction exists for reasons which are in part theological and in part aesthetic, since what may be unobjectionable in a municipal cemetery might be considered inappropriate (or even offensive) in an historic churchyard. It is our responsibility here at St Andrews to ensure that you are fully aware of these regulations as you consider St Andrews churchyard as the last resting place for your loved one.

### **Monuments, headstones and memorials.**

These Regulations are designed to encourage best practice and to eliminate bad practice. It is unlawful for a monument to be introduced into a churchyard without permission. Generally such permission derives from the chancellor in the form of a faculty. However, for administrative convenience and to minimise expense, the chancellor delegates to the incumbent the authority to permit the introduction of a monument provided it is of a type which complies with the detailed provisions contained in these Regulations. Please contact either the Rector or your Funeral director for an application form.

We advise that applications for memorials should generally not be made until six months after the burial or interment. This allows the ground to settle, and we hope will also allow you time to reflect on what you want the memorial to look like.

While the grave itself is the property of the Rector, any memorial will belong to the heir-at-law of the person commemorated and that person carries the duty to maintain it and the legal liability for its safety.

The headstone you will be commissioning is a public statement about the person who is being commemorated. Making the right choice of stone, design and inscription is important not only for you, but also for the wider community because of the effect which the headstone may have upon the appearance of the churchyard. Sculpture or other statuary is not discouraged but must be authorised by faculty as this falls outside of the delegated authority of the Rector.

## HEADSTONES

### *(i) Size*

No more than 4ft nor less than 2ft 6in high (1200mm, 750mm);  
No more than 3ft nor less than 1ft 8in wide (900mm, 500mm);  
No more than 6in nor less than 3in thick (150mm, 75mm),  
unless slate is to be used in which case a thickness of 2in  
(50mm) is permitted;

In the case of infant burials, headstones must be no less than 2ft x 1ft 3in x 2in (600mm x 375mm x 50mm). A base forming an integral part of the design of a headstone may be included, provided it does not project more than 2in (50mm) beyond the headstone in any direction and provided that it is fixed on a foundation slab of an approved material which itself is fixed flush with the ground and extending 3in to 5in (75mm to 125mm) all round so that a mower may freely pass over it.

Up to two integral sockets for flower vases are permitted in bases, in which case the base shall be of the following dimensions:

Height (from ground) 3 ins/75mm (min) to 6 ins /150mm(max)

Width 2ft /610mm (min) to 3ft/910mm (max)

Depth 10 ins/250mm (min) to 1ft/305mm (max)

*(ii) Materials*

The following stone is permitted:

Limestone: Portland Hornton

Purbeck or Horsham Nabresina

Derbyshire Caen/Normandy

Hopton Wood Aura/Aurisina

Sandstone: York

Slate: Blue/Black (Cornish) Green (Westmoreland)

Grey/Blue (Welsh)

Granite: Light to medium grey

*(iii) Position*

No memorial may be erected within 5 yards (4.57 metres) of the outer wall of the church

building save by authority of a faculty.

*(iv) Appearance*

Polished stone or mirror finish is **not permitted**. Coloured lettering is not permitted save as follows:

Nabresina limestone may have the lettering picked out in contrasting matt;

Slate may have the lettering picked out in off-white matt;

Granite may have the lettering picked out in off white matt.



#### *(v) Inscriptions*

An accurate design of the proposed inscription is required before approving any application. Photographs or representations of objects or motifs such as a child's toy are **not permitted** nor the use of 'pet names'. Bronze or ceramic inserts are not to be used. Badges, crests or emblems may be used provided they are seemly and appropriate for the deceased. Masons' or carpenters' names, signs or marks may be inscribed on any monument provided their position and appearance are unobtrusive having regard to the monument as a whole.

### HORIZONTAL LEDGERS

#### *(i) Size*

Either flush with the turf or raised not more than 9in (225mm) above a base, extending not less than 3in (75mm) all round and itself flush with the turf; inclusive measurements not more than 7ft (2100 mm) by 3ft (900mm).

### CROSSES

An incumbent may NOT consent to the introduction of a cross. However, the incumbent may authorise the temporary introduction of a simple wooden cross to mark a recent burial. A brass plaque bearing the name and dates of the deceased may be affixed to the cross. Such cross must be removed upon the erection of a stone memorial or after a period of 18 months, whichever be the sooner.

## PROHIBITIONS

For the avoidance of doubt, the following are not permitted:

- i. kerbs, railings, fencing or chippings;
- ii. memorials in the shape of vases, hearts, open books;
- iii. memorials incorporating photographs or portraits;
- iv. mementoes, windmills, toys or little animals;
- v. the use of 'pet names'
- vi. artificial flowers.

If any of the these items that are not permitted are found in the churchyard they will be removed.

## PERMITTED ORNAMENTS

Ornamentation is otherwise limited to fresh flowers or plants which should be placed within the designated plot. Flowers or plants may be planted within the plot only after consultation with the Rector and may be removed if not tended regularly.

Any dead or deteriorated flowers and plants may be removed at the discretion of the Rector. All rubbish and waste material must be removed and disposed of privately. There are not facilities for disposing of waste materials in the churchyard.

## NOTES

**The Incumbent has no authority to permit the erection of a memorial which does not comply with these Regulations. Any memorial which does not comply with these Regulations (whether or not the incumbent has purported to give their authority) may be removed by order of the consistory court.**

**A faculty may be sought for the erection of a memorial which does not comply with these Regulations. Each case**

**will be considered on its individual merits and the views and policies of the Incumbent and PCC will be taken into account. The opinion of the DAC will also be sought.**

THE WORSHIPFUL MARK HILL QC  
Chancellor of the Diocese of Chichester  
Revised April 2020

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## APPLICATION

If you would like to proceed with a request to have your loved one buried in St. Andrew's churchyard, please confirm that you have read these churchyard regulations and are willing to abide by them by sending an e-mail or letter to that effect to the Rector [nuthurst.rector@gmail.com](mailto:nuthurst.rector@gmail.com)

*The Rectory, Nuthurst Street, Nuthurst, west Sussex. RH13 6LH*

You should include your name(s), address, contact telephone and e-mail as well as the name of the deceased as inscribed on any proposed memorial.

*Finally, a word of advice about the wildlife.*

St. Andrew's Churchyard lies in the middle of a conservation area and it is grazed by rabbits and wild deer, as well as providing habitat for many other animals such as foxes and badgers. We rejoice in their presence even though they have an unwelcome habit of eating some of the floral tributes placed on the graves and burial plots. Like some human beings, the deer have expensive tastes and they consider roses in particular to be a great delicacy. Consequently, relatives are sometimes upset to find that, during the quieter hours of darkness, the flowers that they placed on the grave have been stripped of their buds and heads. However, there are two effective ways of overcoming this distressing problem.

First, you could select flowers or plants that the deer and the rabbits will not eat. A quick glance around the other graves in the churchyard will disclose which choices never feature on the menus favoured by the wildlife. You will notice that the animals do not like snowdrops, primroses, daffodils, bluebells or heathers: neither will they eat begonias unless they are particularly hungry or short-sighted.

If you need any further advice about your use of the churchyard, or any other matter, please do not hesitate to contact the Rector or the Churchwardens, who will be glad to help you.

*If you would like to make a donation to help maintain this beautiful churchyard or the work of the church here you can do so via our QR here.*

*Thank you for your donation.*

