



Placing Flowers on a grave

We know that putting flowers on a grave is a great comfort to many people. Again, there are Chelmsford Diocesan regulations governing what is appropriate. The Churchyard Handbook* takes account of ease of maintenance, what feels right in a holy place and the need to create a tranquil and beautiful space to be enjoyed by everyone.

What is allowed on graves

Fresh flowers in the inset vase (there should be only one of these)

At special times such as Christmas, Remembrance Sunday and Anniversaries, more than one bunch of fresh flowers or a wreath can be placed on a grave, but please remove them a couple of weeks later.

Before a headstone is erected, we will be more relaxed about rules as we know this is a difficult time for the bereaved. More than one bunch of fresh flowers or a pot plant may be placed on the grave at this time.

What is not allowed

(other than the exceptions mentioned above)

- **No plastic or artificial flowers of any kind**
- **No ornaments, candles, toys, or keepsakes**
- **No vases, pots other than the flower holder set in the headstone**
- **No solar lights.**

PLEASE TAKE HOME ALL DEAD FLOWERS and THEIR WRAPPERS.

The Garden of Remembrance

Those who wish their ashes to be buried in the Garden of Remembrance need to understand that this space is kept as a garden, not a graveyard. It is intended for all to be able to sit in a tranquil and uncluttered space and remember their departed loved ones. There are no individual markers and no floral tributes. A Book of Remembrance is kept in the church and a list of all those whose ashes are buried there is displayed on the notice board outside the church and in the Garden. It is always open to anyone to request burial of ashes in a grave in the main churchyard, in the same manner as a coffin is buried.

Regular maintenance

The Parochial Church Council is responsible for the cost of maintaining the churchyard. We are grateful to Great Tey Parish Council which gives a grant towards this ongoing cost.

Any inappropriate items will be removed from graves and the Garden of Remembrance at regular intervals, after notice has first been given that a tidying exercise is going to take place. Any items that have been removed will be placed in a container in the church porch for owners to take home.

Further information:

Churchwardens:

Christopher Percival: chrisp14@btinternet.com

John Carr: carrjc92@gmail.com

Rector:

Ian Scott Thompson: ian.scott.thompson@gmail.com

* Diocese of Chelmsford **Churchyard Handbook** – https://www.chelmsford.anglican.org/uploads/dac-docs/Churchyard_Handbook_February_2022_Edition.pdf

Caring for the Churchyard at St Barnabas, Great Tey Creating a shared, green and living memorial space for all





Caring for a grave in St Barnabas churchyard

A shared green and living memorial space

This churchyard is a beautiful green open space for everyone to enjoy, the friends and relatives of those buried here, as well as visitors and the local community. We are blessed that it is the setting for one of the most beautiful Norman churches in Essex. The churchyard is also a holy place; **all of it, including individual graves, is owned by the church and looked after for the benefit of the whole community and for future generations.**

We know that death usually brings a deep sense of personal loss. Out of this often comes a natural desire to commemorate the lost loved one in a very personal way; however, we have to remember that individual wishes have to be tempered with the need to preserve a beautiful, tranquil and uncluttered place. These objectives are reflected in the regulations that we have set out below.

We strongly recommend that everyone considering burial of a body or interment of ashes in the churchyard, makes sure that they understand these regulations before making any decisions about how and where they or their relatives would like to be buried.

Regulations

There are rules and legal regulations relating to graves and churchyards which are not at the discretion of the Rector or the PCC. These are designed to ensure that the churchyard remains a place of beauty and peace and at one with nature. These requirements are set out in the 'Churchyard Handbook'* produced by the Diocese of Chelmsford. In some areas the PCC has discretion to supplement those regulations. What follows is a summary of the diocesan regulations and includes additional guidelines that the PCC has agreed. Any variation from these regulations has to be applied for using the 'Faculty' system (in effect the church 'planning system').

Times change

Please note that in the past regulations have not been made clear enough and they have changed, so please do not take what can be seen on existing graves as a guide to what is permitted now.

Flowers from a funeral service and on the grave before a headstone is erected

We know that the first months following a bereavement are often the most difficult for relatives and friends. Fresh flowers, some from the funeral and flowers in pots can be a comfort at this time. However, once a headstone is erected the family of the bereaved will be asked to comply with the rules set out below.

Choosing and erecting a headstone

On our heavy clay the ground has to be allowed to settle properly. This takes between 6 months and a year. 6 months after the burial an application needs to be made using form **CR1**, available from your funeral director. There are strict guidelines* imposed by the Diocese and the Church of England concerning the size, type of stone and inscription on a headstone. **Before you fill in form CR1**, please ask one of the churchwardens for the leaflet the PCC has produced giving specific advice relating to headstones. Having submitted CR1 to the Rector you should wait to receive approval from the Rector **before** ordering a gravestone from a mason. **If you would like something outside the guidelines, you will need to obtain a Faculty from the Diocese.**

In summary

No stone should be polished, it should be matt

Sides should be straight

Top should be curved or straight

There should only be one hole for a flower vase

Materials - Because our churchyard is open and surrounds a very important historic building, there is a limited range of materials that are appropriate. The choice is set out in the parish leaflet mentioned above.

Inscriptions – please read the Churchyard Handbook and fill in form **CR1** before a mason starts work on your chosen headstone.

Lettering – the lettering should be either uncoloured or black or white.

