

St.John's Broadstone: Churchyard Regulations

The following regulations are taken from the Diocese of Salisbury's Regulations (2016) as set out by the Diocesan Chancellor. They have been accepted by our Parochial Church Council and, in any case, we have a legal obligation to abide by them. What follows are the sections relevant to a Garden of Remembrance, but full copies of the regulations are available from our Parish Office.

Section 7

It is unlawful for a memorial to be placed in a churchyard without proper permission. That permission generally derives from the Chancellor of the Diocese in the form of a faculty, but for administrative convenience and to minimize expense the Chancellor delegates to the Incumbent the authority to permit the introduction of memorials which fall within Part II of these Regulations. The incumbent has no authority to permit the introduction of a memorial outside the scope of Part II and any memorial which does not comply with these Regulations may be removed by order of the Consistory Court. Where the parish is in vacancy the advice of the Registrar should be sought. The applicant is advised not to enter into any contract with stonemasons before obtaining either the incumbent's written consent or a faculty, in case permission is refused.

Section 9

Unless there are very exceptional circumstances no application for a monument will be approved until at least six months after the burial. This allows the soil in the grave to settle, and provides time for careful consideration of the design and content of the memorial. A temporary wooden cross or marker bearing the name of the deceased and not exceeding 3ft (c.90cm) in height may be used to mark a new grave for a period of up to 12 months after a burial.

Section 12.1

At the discretion of the incumbent, subject to the right to burial described in paragraph 4 of these Regulations, cremated remains may be buried in a churchyard either in a dedicated area set aside for this purpose by faculty or elsewhere in the churchyard in a nominated plot or grave. Cremated remains should not be scattered or strewn and the burial must be carried out in the presence of ordained clergy or other licensed minister. The pouring of cremated remains directly into the earth is, from the point of view of symbolism, theology and sound practical sense, to be preferred, but they may be buried in a casket made of wood or some other biodegradable material. If the church has a book of remembrance this is the preferred method of commemoration i.e. without a tablet or plaque. However, subject to paragraph 12.2 below, the burial of cremated remains may be commemorated by tablets or plaques not exceeding 30cm x 37cm (1ft x 1ft 3in). Such tablets or plaques must be flush with the turf, and may be laid at the time of the interment.

Section 14.3

No artificial flowers may be placed in the churchyard (except remembrance poppies between 20 October and 20 December in any year) and if they are so placed the PCC may remove them.

Section 14.4

The PCC may remove wreaths and flowers and at their discretion if such flowers and wreaths have wilted or died or otherwise having regard to their condition.

Section 14.5

Otherwise than as stated above no object or other thing may be placed upon or near a grave. In the event that any such object or thing is so placed the incumbent or churchwardens must remove it. A member of the family of the deceased should be notified of such removal (directly where this is reasonably practicable or otherwise by a notice on the grave) by informing him or her of the place from which the object or thing so removed may be collected. The incumbent and churchwardens may, at their discretion, allow such articles to remain on new graves for a period of up to 13 months.

For Information:

Full burials are not permitted in our churchyard, as permission for such burials has never been sought or granted. What we do have is a Garden of Remembrance in which cremated remains may be buried. The sections of the regulations included in this document have been selected as being most relevant to a Garden of Remembrance, but we are bound by the regulations in their entirety.

For a full set of the regulations, please contact our Parish Office at Macaulay Road

admin@stjohnschurchbroadstone.org.uk