

MEMORIAL REGULATIONS



St. Leonard's Churchyard
Cliddesden
Parish of Farleigh

1. The purpose of the Churchyard is to provide a place where the mortal remains of past generations of Christian people are reverently laid and their earthly lives recorded.

We are part of the Diocese of Winchester and are required to abide by their regulations when considering what is permitted in the churchyards. We hope that these notes will help explain these rules when you are planning the memorial of your loved one in the Churchyard.

2. Reputable stonemasons are familiar with the measurements stipulated by the Diocese. We reproduce them here, in brief, as a guide for you. If you wish to see the full regulations please ask the Churchwardens or the Parish Priest.

3. Upright Stones

- a. No more than 1200 mm (4 feet) high and no less than 750 mm (2 feet 6 inches) high (measured from the surface of the ground).
- b. No more than 900 mm (3 feet) wide and no less than 500 mm (1 foot 8 inches) wide.
- c. No more than 150 mm (6 inches) thick and no less than 75 mm (3 inches) thick, except in the case of slate memorials which can be thinner, but no less than 38 mm (1.5 inches) thick.

For a child the headstone may be smaller, but should be no less than 600 mm (2 feet) high, 375 mm (1 foot 3 inches) wide and 50 mm (2 inches) thick.

4. Horizontal Stones or Ledgers

These should be no larger than 2100 mm (7 feet) by 900 mm (3 feet) including the base. They may be either flush with the ground, set at a slight angle to enable rainwater to run off, or raised not more than 225 mm (9 inches).

5. Permitted Types of Stone

- a. Limestone – Portland, Purbeck, Derbyshire, York, Hopton, Nabresina, French, Portuguese.
- b. Slate – Light Grey, Blue/Black, Green
- c. Granite – Light Grey
- d. Granite – Rustenberg (Charcoal) Grey is also permitted provided that the stone is rubbed to a matt finish rather than polished

No other form of memorial is permitted.

6. Flowers

- a. Some memorials contain a flower vase as part of the design. When they do not, flowers may only be placed in a removable container no larger than 300 mm (12 inches) in height, width or length. Only one container per grave is permitted in the Churchyard.
- b. Artificial flowers made from silk or similar fabric are allowed. Plastic flowers are not allowed.
- c. Bulbs may be planted in the soil of the grave.

7. Frequently Asked Questions

a. Why do you need rules anyway?

We are required to comply with the rules laid out for us which also take into account applicable government legislation.

These rules help us to maintain the Churchyard as well and as easily as possible for everyone. We have to allow access for visitors to all the graves and wish for the churchyard to be safe and tidy for them.

Maintenance is the responsibility of the Churchwardens and here at St Leonard's it is undertaken in a voluntary capacity by members of the congregation and the local village. Some areas of the church yard are also designated as a Site of Importance in Nature Conservation (SINC), and need maintenance to allow that to continue and wildlife to thrive. Most importantly we are responsible for the Christian care of the remains of our past communities.

b. Why do churchyards have different rules from Council Burial Grounds?

We are required to abide by the regulations laid down by the Church and Diocese which are different from those imposed on secular sites, but these also have regulations governing them. We are also responsible for the Christian nature of our burials.

c. I understand that an application has to be made for permission to place a memorial in a Churchyard?

Yes, this is the case. The mason preparing your memorial will send a form to the Parish Priest outlining the type of memorial planned and the wording of the inscription. It will also describe the type of stone to be used. You will need to sign this, as will the mason before it is sent to the Parish Priest. The priest will ensure that everything complies with the regulations (with which he must also comply). The signed top copy is returned to the stone mason, the other is retained by the Parish Priest.

d. May I put more than one flower container on the grave at special times?

At times such as Christmas, an anniversary or Remembrance Day, people often place more flowers on graves, usually in the form of bouquets, wreaths or Remembrance Day poppies. This is a concession, and you are requested to keep to one container per grave at other times. This does help us significantly with the maintenance of the church yard. Please arrange for the removal of extra flowers after a period of no more than six weeks.

Please do talk to the Parish Priest in the very early stages of planning a memorial as they will be able to discuss these rules fully with you. They know the churchyard well and will be able to help you consider other ideas or suggestions. They can also advise you of the process to follow if you are not happy with their decision.

Thank you for helping us to take care of this very special place. Please do not hesitate to talk to the Churchwardens or the Parish Priest if you have any other questions, we will do our very best to help.