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## CHURCHYARD REGULATIONS

This leaflet is intended to provide helpful guidance for bereaved families who are considering applying for a burial or the interment of ashes in any of the churchyards of the Benefice, or who would like to place a memorial on a grave. It reflects the Regulations which apply to all Church of England Churchyards in the Diocese of Salisbury.

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## OUR CHURCHYARDS ARE HERE FOR EVERYONE

For most people churchyards are places of quiet contemplation and remembering. Our aim is to ensure that they should be both peaceful and kept tidy and mown for the benefit of everyone. That means that graves need to be flat and clear of obstructions so that the grass can be cut, and the remains of floral tributes should be removed by those who place them on graves. We have to rely on volunteers to maintain our churchyards, and we ask families visiting graves to help us achieve this aim.

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*Any enquiries arising from this leaflet  
may be addressed to the Team Office:*

The Church Room, Back Lane,  
Ramsbury, MARLBOROUGH, Wilts  
SN8 2QH

Tel: 01672-520963

[teamoffice@whittonteam.org.uk](mailto:teamoffice@whittonteam.org.uk)

*A separate summary of the Diocesan Regulations regarding memorials  
is also available. More detail can be found at*

<http://www.salisbury.anglican.org/whos-who/registry/churchyards-headstones-and-burials>

August 2016



AXFORD St Michael

ALDBOURNE St Michael

BAYDON St Nicholas

CHILTON FOLIAT St Mary

FROXFIELD All Saints

RAMSBURY Holy Cross

# **INFORMATION Relating to CHURCHYARDS**

*Burials, Interment of Ashes,  
Memorials, Flowers*

## Guidance for Recently Bereaved Families

### Who can be buried in the churchyard?

Eligibility for burial is not wholly unrestricted, and your chosen funeral director will check with the clergy before a burial is arranged.

### Can more than one burial take place in the same plot?

Yes, a second burial can take place, provided that arrangements are made at the time of the first burial. This applies to the interment of ashes as well. More than two burials in one plot are sometimes possible, particularly for cremated remains that are to be buried in an existing full-sized family plot.

### Can we put a memorial on the grave?

Yes, a burial can be marked with a headstone, and an interment of ashes with a flat tablet. However, the types of memorial or headstone that can be put in churchyards are strictly limited by the Churchyard Regulations (*see the attached Summary and the Diocesan website*). Most monumental masons will be aware of these, but please note that the agreement of the Rector **MUST** be obtained before any memorial is ordered and installed. It is very distressing for everyone if an unauthorised memorial has to be removed. The fact that a particular type of memorial or headstone has been placed in the churchyard previously does not form a precedent to allow a similar type again.

### Can we buy a burial plot?

The short answer is 'No'. Although this may be possible in public cemeteries, it isn't in churchyards. Grave space may be reserved in some of our churchyards, but the procedure is complex and expensive, and hence is not recommended.

## Guidance about Floral Tributes

### Can floral tributes be placed on graves?

Yes, of course, but **only** fresh flowers and foliage are allowed and these should not be in glass containers. Except for Remembrance Day poppies from 20 October – 20 December, **no** other artificial wreaths or flowers, shrubs, permanent or empty loose vases or containers, ornaments, chippings, gravel, paving stones or kerbs may be placed on or around any grave or any area set aside for cremated remains in a churchyard. This means, of course, that items that are not permitted, or anything that becomes unsightly, may be removed; these objects would be kept for two months before being disposed of. Some leeway will be permitted for the first thirteen months after a burial, but families are asked not to abuse this concession, or it will be withdrawn.

In Aldbourne, Shirley Allen, of Forge Flowers, has offered to place anniversary flowers on graves in Aldbourne churchyard, on request, for those who are unable to do it regularly themselves (contact: 540787 or 07880745566).

### Can we plant flowers or shrubs?

We are sorry that the answer is 'No'. One reason is practical – keeping the churchyard clear for mowing – but the main reason is that if we allow any planting at all, there will always be someone who will go too far!

### Who is responsible for the care of graves?

While many families care for graves themselves, keeping them beautifully, each Parochial Church Council has responsibility for the whole churchyard, arranging mowing and for the churchyard generally to be kept tidy. For that reason, families are asked to ensure that graves are levelled and left clear of obstructions so that our teams of volunteers can carry out routine maintenance.

Please take away any refuse, including dead flowers and any wrappings, and put it **into** the appropriate bins, not elsewhere in the churchyard.