

CHURCH OF THE EPIPHANY - CHURCHYARD POLICY

The Churchyard is maintained to provide a pleasant environment for all users by a team of volunteers. For this to happen we need to ensure that work such as grass cutting can be undertaken as easily as is practical whilst recognising the needs of the bereaved and their family and friends. The following rules are intended to assist this process.

All burials

- 1 Fresh flowers and pot plants should be placed on the gravestone or memorial tablet and not left in a position where they will need to be moved when the grass is mown.
- 2 For safety glass vases are not allowed, in case they get broken.
- 3 Artificial flowers are sometimes left. These will be removed when they begin to lose their colour. Fresh flowers and plants will be removed once they have died. Water and rubbish provision are located in the church grounds.
- 4 No other items can be left at the graveside.
- 5 Surplus soil from excavations must be taken away from the site and not left in the graveyard.
- 6 The wording and style of all memorials must be submitted for approval by the incumbent before work on them is commenced.
- 7 Unless it is known for certain that there will only be one burial, graves should normally be dug deep enough to accommodate two coffins.
- 8 Next in line system, no plots can be reserved except Parent and Child.

Graves

- 1 If flowers are to be grown on the grave, only snowdrops, crocus or daffodils are accepted. As far as possible grass cutting will then take place round the leaves for about six weeks after the bulbs have finished flower. The foliage will then be mown. Most bulbs seem to continue to flower for several years with this regime.
- 2 Grave heads must be marked by a small stone set into the ground or upright wooden cross at the time of burial until the final memorial stone is set in place. We advise that headstones are ideally not put in place for 12 months to allow for settlement.
- 3 The type of stone to be used is partly honed granite or local stone only, mostly in grey colours. Most stone masons are aware of this.

Burial of Ashes

- 1 Memorial tablets will be 450mm by 450mm. They will be laid in the stoned area between paths in space 600mm by 600mm on top of a 600mm by 600mm slab. The casket will be interred in a hole dug in the centre of this area, so that the larger slab fully covers the excavation and rests firmly on undisturbed ground. In this way there should be minimal settlement for the memorial slab over time.
- 2 The burial position must be marked by a small stone set on the slab at time of burial until the final memorial stone is set in place.
- 3 All graves dug to be deep enough to take two caskets.

