

DRAYCOTE GROUP OF PARISHES

Churchyard Regulations Guidance for the Erection of Memorials

Please do not enter into any agreement with a memorial mason for supplying a memorial until you have written permission from the Vicar.

The following rules for the introduction of memorial monuments into the churchyard are based on 'The care of churchyards (1994)' document of the Coventry Diocese. They have been adopted by all the Church Councils in the Draycote Group and therefore must be followed. They will allow the churchyard to be a beautiful part of the environment and a suitable resting place for loved ones, unspoiled by fads or fashions.

The rules are as follows:

BURIAL

- Natural unpolished stones such as Blue Horton, Golden York or Portland are the only one's normally allowed because they are more in keeping with the colour of locally occurring stone. The use of English oak wood is also unacceptable.
- It should be noted that monuments in the shape of books, hearts or photographs as part of a memorial, or kerbs to enclose the grave space (with or without chippings, railings or chains) are specifically prohibited. The incorporation of images and statues into monuments is prohibited.
- Gilded or silvered lettering, engraved images or photographs are not suitable.
- Vertical Stone not to exceed 4 feet (1200mm) in height.
- Horizontal Stone or Ledger not to exceed 7 feet (2100mm) by 3 feet (900mm) and should be flush with the surrounding ground.
- A Cross made of English Oak and not exceeding 1000mm in height may be erected temporarily.

CREMATED REMAINS

- Marker Stones permitted only in existing Gardens of Remembrance not to exceed 21" x 21" (530mm x 530mm) and should be flush with the surrounding ground.

GENERAL

- Flowers and containers. No artificial flowers are allowed, other than poppies at Remembrance or wreaths at Christmas.
- Only bulbs or small annuals may be planted on the grave space. Wreaths or cut flowers may be laid on the grave or kept in pots (any person authorised to look after the Churchyard may remove them when they appear to be withered or untidy).
- Stone vases or flower pots made of materials matching the memorial specified are allowed provided that they are kept tidy. Glass, china or metal vases or pots are allowed provided that they are sunk into the ground so as to be firmly anchored and virtually invisible.

Please use the following procedure when choosing a memorial;

- Discuss with a stonemason to choose a suitable and acceptable monument.
- A written application containing dimensions and materials etc. of the monument should be made to the Vicar, usually by the stonemason.
- If the proposed monument meets the Diocesan guidelines, the Vicar will then sign an approval form. A firm order can then be placed with a stonemason.

Variations to the foregoing rules may only be permitted by the granting of a Faculty. Details of applying for a Faculty may be obtained from the Vicar.