

# ST GEORGE'S CHURCH, STALYBRIDGE

STANDING NOTICE COMMENCING 31st JANUARY 2026

## CHURCHYARD ORNAMENTS / FLOWERS / AD-HOC DECORATIVE ITEMS



Churchyards are a valuable heritage and also a great responsibility. It is fair and right to all users to ensure that churchyards are kept in decent order so as to show respect for those who have died, and so far as is possible, to comfort those whose loved ones are buried there.

St George's churchyard is an important feature of the community : it is an historic record of successive generations, a place for memorials and a setting for the church, which is also a listed building. However, most importantly, it is a place where people can be quiet, reflect, remember and pray without the distraction of things that are unsightly or inappropriate.

Consequently, the family / owner / representative for any grave, including any plot on the Garden of Remembrance are reminded that only certain items are permitted. This is Church of England regulation which St George's is required to implement and therefore the Church Council requests that any non-compliant items be removed by 31st August, 2026. After that date, such items will be removed and stored for collection.

### Items that are acceptable

- Fresh flowers, without any wrapping
- A flower pot or receptacle made of stone or metal
- A symbol or motif for a recognised church event, such as Remembrance Sunday, made of wood, metal or stone.

### Items that are not acceptable

Basically anything else, which includes:

- Any item made of plastic or resin
- Any item made of glass, porcelain, earthenware or similar such as terracotta
- Any decoration including windmills, flags, baubles, Christmas decorations, ornaments, and including inflatables
- Any electrical item including cables, batteries, solar powered lights and the like
- Any photographic depiction
- Any other brightly coloured item that detracts from an overall quiet, calm environment that is conducive to self-reflection or detracts from the overall style or mood of the church or churchyard

In order to collect items after 31<sup>st</sup> August, 2026, we will require proof of identity with address.

In the event of query please contact the vicar, Rev'd Denise Owen by email at [therewd.dowen@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:therewd.dowen@yahoo.co.uk) or by telephone on 01457 321943.