

Please Note what is NOT permitted:

- a) monuments made of marble or granite (other than unpolished grey granite), artificial stone or plastic and, in particular, monuments made of black granite or marble;
- b) monuments made of more than one type of stone;
- c) monuments in the shape of hearts, urns or statues depicting human figures or otherwise;
- d) monuments with more than one side polished;
- e) monuments with pictures or photographs on them;
- f) kerbing, railings or chippings;
- g) any kind of lighting.

Flowers on graves

1. Bulbs and small plants may be planted on graves on consultation with the permission of the incumbent.
2. Cut flowers may be left on a grave, but must be cleared away when they die.
3. No artificial or silk flowers may be placed on a grave except for Remembrance Day poppies, which should be removed in consultation with the incumbent.
4. No teddy bears, photographs, balloons or other sentimental items should be left on a grave. If they are, they may be removed by the incumbent or churchwardens or their deputy at any time 42 days after interment.

The role of the Parochial Church Council (PCC)

PCC members support the incumbent in keeping the churchyard regulations, keep a graveyard plan of all burials and ensure the annual check of memorial safety is carried out.

The Benefice of Berrow, Pendock, Eldersfield, Birtsmorton and Hollybush

Rector of Berrow Benefice (Incumbent)

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In bereavement, many issues become ultra-sensitive. People may wish to express their grief within the church yard where their beloved is buried or cremated remains are interred. A parish churchyard has specific guidelines and laws set down by the Church of England. Please read this guide carefully and by being aware of these regulations thus avoiding any misunderstandings.



A short Guide to Churchyard Regulations

Churchyard Regulations (2006) are set out under the Care of Churches and Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction Measure 1991 (Amended 2015) by the Chancellor of the Diocese, following consultation with the Diocesan Advisory Committee for the Care of Churches (DAC). The full Regulations can be found on the Diocesan website and are issued with the approval of the Bishop of Worcester.

The purpose of these Churchyard Regulations is to ensure that churchyards are kept in decent order so as to show respect for those who have died before us and to comfort so far as is possible all those who have loved ones buried there. Churchyards reflect too the Christian faith of those who have committed, permanently, their friends and/or family to God. It is especially important that each and every person with a loved one buried or interred in a churchyard seeks to have regard to the sensitivities of others in the same position and of other visitors to the church and its churchyard and, to respect the tradition of the churchyard itself.

An incumbent must not under any circumstances authorise the breach of these Regulations without reference to the Diocesan Chancellor for his or her approval. The Chancellor may order the removal any item which is in breach of the Churchyard Regulations.

Any application to the Chancellor should be sent to the Diocesan Registrar.

Stuart Ness - Solicitor, Registrar of the Diocese of Worcester

Worcester Diocesan Registry

8 Sansome Walk, Worcester, WR1 1LW

Telephone: 01905 723561

Rights of Burial and the reservation of grave-space

1. Parishioners, those on the electoral roll of the parish concerned and all persons who die within the parish boundaries have a Right of Burial within the parish churchyard provided that it is still open for burials, whether or not the deceased was a practising Christian and regardless of the length of time that the deceased lived in the parish.
2. Permission for burial of other persons may be granted by the PCC, which would normally pass a formal resolution giving general consent to the incumbent to give such permission at his or her discretion.
3. No one has a right to be buried in a particular part of a churchyard, but grave spaces may be reserved through a Faculty.
4. It is important to note that the exercise of a Right of Burial, the reservation of a grave space or the erection of a monument does not confer any right of ownership of that part of the churchyard, the whole of which remains vested in the incumbent. In particular, burial (or the interment of ashes) does not give the bereaved a right to have a memorial erected that is contrary to these Regulations.

The erection of monuments

1. No monument may be erected over a grave until at least 6 months have passed since the interment; the exception being in the case of a child where the incumbent may seek permission for a shorter time from the Archdeacon.
2. Neither the relatives, nor the personal representatives, nor the close friends of the deceased have the right to have a monument erected over a grave. They may apply for the privilege of so doing to the incumbent who has discretion to permit such a monument if, and only if, the application complies with the Regulations.

3. Applicants are reminded that a churchyard is consecrated ground and that any memorial or monument will be seen by other visitors. Therefore, those completing the application should seek to have erected nothing that may cause offence to others or that is contrary to traditional Christian teaching; nor should any memorial by implication or otherwise draw an unfavourable comparison with anyone else. Accordingly, applicants must discuss their proposals with the incumbent before making a formal application.

4. Any application to erect a monument shall be made to the incumbent on the Faculty Petition Form (Churchyard Memorials), but only following the discussions with the incumbent.

5. Once a memorial has been erected on the grave the relatives or personal representatives remain responsible for its maintenance. Neither the incumbent nor the PCC has any responsibility at any time for the upkeep of individual memorials. As a result, applicants are advised to choose monuments that are not expensive to maintain and that are not especially susceptible to vandalism.

6. All changes in a churchyard, including the erecting or removal of monuments, require the authority of the Chancellor, who by custom delegates to the incumbent.

7. No order should be placed with a stone or monumental mason unless the order has been approved in writing by the incumbent or by the Chancellor.

8. Grave mounds are not permitted, irrespective of whether or not a memorial has been placed or is going to be placed over the grave.

Memorial stones

All local Stone Masons who prepare memorials are issued with the rules and regulations of what is permitted. Please consult them before an application is made to the incumbent to avoid the application being unsuitable and not meeting the laid down specific regulations. Written permission by the incumbent is required for any memorial placed in the church graveyard.