

St Barnabas Church, Horton-cum-Studley Churchyard Guidelines and Policy

INTRODUCTION

These guidelines and policy are designed to assist those who use or visit the churchyard of St Barnabas Church in Horton-cum-Studley. They are intended to supplement the Diocese of Oxford Churchyard Regulations and the leaflet '*When someone you love has died*' both of which are available at <https://www.oxford.anglican.org/our-faith/life-events/funerals/>

THE RIGHT OF BURIAL IN THE CHURCHYARD

In our consecrated churchyard every parishioner has a right of burial in the churchyard, provided there is space available. In addition, any person whose name is on the electoral roll of the parish at the time of their death and any person dying in the parish also have a right to burial. No other person can be buried in the churchyard without the consent of the Vicar. If the Vicar declines to allow the burial of a person who has no right of burial, his or her decision shall be final.

There is no right of burial in any specific part of the churchyard except where a grave space has been designated as a burial plot for multiple burials, e.g. a double or triple grave or a family vault.

THE GRAVE

In a municipal cemetery, the grave is bought and owned by the family and a grave deed is issued. This is not the case in a Church of England churchyard, where the graves are owned by the Church with the Vicar of the parish acting on its behalf. There are certain regulations about what memorials are permitted. These regulations are not made locally by the Vicar or the Parochial Church Council (PCC), but by the Chancellor of the Diocese, the Bishop's Chief Legal Officer.

AFTER A BURIAL

A few months after the burial it is normal for the soil level to settle. The grave will, in due course, be allowed to grass over and the Church will take responsibility for keeping it mown and tidy.

Many people carefully tend family graves and may want to display flowers. Flower vases of glass, ceramic or other fragile material are considered unsuitable material on a grave. These and any other unsuitable items will be removed and notified to the next of kin for collection. The planting of shrubs, plants or small trees, and the use of kerbs, borders, railings or chippings is not allowed anywhere on the grave.

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MEMORIALS

Before any memorial is placed on a grave or memorial stone is used with the interment of ashes, permission from the Vicar must be obtained. Inscriptions (both initial and those at a later time) also require the Vicar's permission. It is desirable that headstones and memorial stones are similar in colour and texture across the churchyard. Thus, the choice of material must be from the following list:

Headstones (burials): Portland, Purbeck, Auresina, Nabresina, Hopton Wood, Hornton, (Oxford Ironstone).

Memorial stones (ashes): Slates (Welsh, Cornish, Cumbrian), Auresina, Nabresina, Purbeck.

In the absence of a headstone, a simple wooden cross may be considered, with permission from the vicar.

FEES

A standard fee which is set annually by the Church of England Commissioners is payable when a memorial is introduced into the graveyard or when an additional inscription is made to an existing stone.

OWNERSHIP AND CARE

A memorial or headstone is the property of the person in whose name it was erected or his or her family. If no family exists, the PCC will assume responsibility for ensuring that gravestones are safe, and for their future maintenance, subject to available funds.

Only cut or silk flowers are permitted. All dead flowers should be removed and placed in the bins provided within the churchyard. Water is available from the tap near the lychgate entrance to the churchyard. Please do not allow your dog to foul the churchyard.

If there is anything of which you are uncertain, please ask the Vicar or Churchwardens. The Vicar and the Churchwardens' details can be found in the Parish Magazine in Church or on the website <https://www.achurchnearyou.com/>