

Guidelines for the erection of Headstones and Memorials for the Parish of Bredon with Bredon's Norton

The Parish has two Graveyards that contain many ancient headstones and memorials of simplicity and dignity. As far as possible we aim to maintain this aura of peace and serenity in keeping with the historic nature of the churches and their rural surroundings. In preparing these guidelines the Parochial Church Council has specified permitted materials and sizes in order that twenty first century additions will, in time, blend with those memorials erected in earlier times.

People wishing to erect a monument are respectfully asked to read the information set out below so that they have a clear understanding of what is acceptable.

- No monument may be erected without written permission by the Rector of Bredon with Bredon's Norton and memorials shall conform to the standards set out below. The existence of a memorial similar to the one for which permission is being sought is not, of itself, a reason for giving permission.
- Normally a period of not less than six months must elapse between the death of the person to be commemorated and the approval of a memorial
- The Parochial Church Council (P.C.C.) may level any grave mound at its discretion at any time more than 12 months after the latest interment in a grave. A fee (currently £20) will be levied at the time of burial for all interments to cover the cost of carrying out such works.

HEADSTONES

- Headstones should be *no larger* than 4ft (1200mm) high, measuring from the surface of the ground; 3 ft wide (900mm) wide, and 6ins (150mm) thick. They should be *no less* than 1ft 8ins (500mm) high, 1ft 8in (500mm) wide, and 3ins (75mm) thick.
- A headstone may stand on a stone base provided that it is an integral part of the design and does not project more than 4ins (100mm) beyond the headstone in any direction except where a receptacle for flowers is incorporated. Only one such vase is allowed and it must be flush with the top of the base which may then extend up to 8ins (200mm) in front of the headstone. The base must be fixed on a foundation slab set flush with the ground and extending from 3ins to 6ins (75mm-150mm) all round so that a mower may pass freely over it. The base of the memorial may be so shaped that it can be inserted directly into the ground at sufficient depth to ensure stability.

WOODEN CROSSES

Simple wooden crosses may be installed but should not exceed 3ft (900mm) in height. They should be made of teak or oak. No other type of wood is allowed.

PERMITTED STONE

Only natural stone as specified will be allowed. Types of stone which are approved are:

- ✓ Cotswold stone, similar to that which comes from the Guiting Quarries.
- ✓ York stone
- ✓ Cumberland green slate
- ✓ Serena stone
- ✓ Hornton stone (Oxford)

No other stone will be allowed, in particular the following which are not approved:

- Nabresina stone
- Portland stone
- Marble in any form
- Other forms of slate
- Any form of polishing of any stone

SHAPE

Headstones should be of a rectangular shape but a simple curved top is permissible. Memorials in the shape of a heart or a book are not permitted, nor are photographs, portraits, kerbs, railings, chains, chippings, or glass shards. Figure sculpture and other statuary are not permitted.

INSCRIPTIONS

Inscriptions should be simple and reverent and may include appropriate quotations from literary sources. It is preferred that they should be plain but colouring in with darkish, matt colours (brown or black) can be allowed. Gold, other shiny colours or plastic are not allowed.

No advertisement or trademark should be inscribed on a headstone.

PLAQUES

1. Whilst space permits the placing of small bronze plates on the designated churchyard wall to commemorate those have been cremated will continue.
2. Where ashes are interred it is permitted to place a horizontal stone plaque but this will only continue whilst space permits. These plaques should be no larger than 12ins (300mm) by 15ins (380mm). The P.C.C. prefers the use of the approved list of stones as above. However the P.C.C. or Rector may approve the use of:
 - Nebresina
 - Other forms of slate

PLAQUES CONTINUED..../

The use of marble and any form of polished stone are not permitted.

These plaques must be absolutely flat so that a mowing machine can be run over the top of them.

The commemoration of a deceased person is permitted with either a wall plaque or a ground plaque – but not both.

FLOWERS, CONTAINERS AND OTHER TRIBUTES– THOUGHOUT THE CHURCHYARD

Flowers are, by tradition, an act of remembrance and celebration of a deceased person's life. The Rector and P.C.C. wish families to continue to mark special days and anniversaries of their loved ones.

The use of flower vases/containers with headstones has already been covered. In the area reserved for the interment of ashes flowers should be placed in non plastic removable containers which can be sunk completely into the ground.

The planting of trees, shrubs or any other perennial plants is not permitted as their introduction into the churchyard causes great difficulties with the maintenance of this very special place.

Fresh flowers are the only permitted tributes to be left in the churchyards. Any other items will be removed.

The Churchyards of both churches are maintained and cared for by volunteers who give a great deal of their time to make these places calm and peaceful places of reflection. The P.C.C. would ask families to maintain the flowers they leave, and to clear away dead flowers and their packaging on a regular basis.

The churchyards of St Giles Bredon, and the Chapel of Ease at Bredon's Norton may only be used for burials by those living in the parish. Those who have moved away and have strong connections with one of the villages in the parish may have their ashes buried with the permission of the Rector.

FINALLY

It is hoped that these directives are clear and unequivocal. If, however, there is any doubt enquiries should be made to the Rector or the Church Wardens **before ordering or cutting any stone.**

These guidelines were approved by the P.C.C. on 4 September 2019 and take immediate effect from that date.