

## **Guidance for Families on Churchyard matters at Laverstock St Andrew**

This document contains some key information from the Chancellor of Salisbury Diocese on various legal matter relating to churchyards. It is designed to help you think through the best funeral arrangements for your loved one. More detailed guidance is available in the Churchyard Regulations, in the Chancellors General Guidance on Churchyard Matters and from the Salisbury Diocesan Registrar.

### **Burial**

Anyone who lives or dies in the Church parish, or whose name is on the electoral roll of the Church, has a right to be buried in the Parish Church churchyard (provided that there is still space). No one else can be buried there without the consent of the Vicar and the PCC. It is in the nature of the rite of burial in the Church of England to say 'farewell' to the deceased and to commend them to the mercy and love of God in Christ, to await the transformation of resurrection and therefore we anticipate a member of the clergy being part of the ceremony. There is accordingly a theological finality to the burial of all remains in consecrated ground

### **Memorials and Monuments**

Churchyards provide areas of peaceful reflection and prayer for the bereaved and for the wider community and must be easily maintainable by volunteers in the parish. As such, under the Churchyard Regulations, the Vicar can permit only certain types of memorial. Some of the limitations for this include:

- The size, shape and material of the memorial
- The type of inscription or any engravings use

The following are **NEVER** permitted

- Kerbs, railings, chippings
- Photographs or cards
- Toys, candles, artificial flowers
- Shrubs of any variety, either in pots or planted in the ground

The Vicar cannot permit a memorial which is not within the Regulations and the family or applicant is advised not to enter into any contract with stonemasons before obtaining the Vicar's written consent, in case permission is refused. Where the family would like a memorial outside the scope of the Regulations, they can ask the Diocesan Chancellor for permission, although a fee is payable for this application whether or not permission is ultimately granted.

### **Cremated Remains**

Cremated remains poured directly into the ground is to be preferred. Any memorial plaque will be subject to the rules of the churchyard.

**A signed copy of this document must be returned to the Church Office or given to the member of Clergy taking the service, before the burial can take place.**

I confirm that I have read and understood the guidance regarding burial in Laverstock St Andrew churchyard, and that I will abide by these guidelines.

Signed

Name (printed)

Date