

**A FULL COPY OF THE REGULATIONS IS AVAILABLE ON THE
DIOCESAN WEBSITE (www.chester.anglican.org) OR ON
REQUEST FROM THE VICAR.**

UPKEEP OF THE CHURCHYARD

The churchyard belongs to the Parochial Church Council and they are responsible for its overall maintenance. The current cost of cutting the grass is over £2000 per year. Funeral fees go towards this. We also receive some help from our local parish councils and the district council. However, we are always grateful for any additional help. Perhaps you would consider a small annual donation?

FURTHER INFORMATION

If you need any further information about the churchyard, then please contact us:

	Phil Weston	752272
Vicar:	David Lamb	01829 751440
Churchyard Officer:	Philip Goodall	01829 752130

A PRAYER AT THE GRAVESIDE

Dear God,
I thank you for [NAME].
For the time we shared together,
For all that was good in *him/her*,
And for the love I received from *him/her*.
Give me the strength to entrust *him/her* to your care,
Confident of your promise of eternal life
Through Jesus Christ.
Amen.

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST ASHTON HAYES CHURCHYARD



GUIDANCE FOR BEREAVED RELATIVES

INTRODUCTION

In this time of grieving, you will not want to be worried about churchyard regulations. There is no hurry for you to make a decision about a memorial for your loved one. However, when you are ready, there are a number of things you should be aware of. We have written some of these here, so that you can look at them at the appropriate time.

CHURCHYARD REGULATIONS

The Diocese of Chester Regulations state:

“A consecrated burial ground of a Church of the Church of England is subject to legal control which is exercised by the Chancellor of the Diocese on behalf of the Bishop. No memorials may be erected, or any works undertaken, in a churchyard except by written authorisation or faculty. A faculty is an Order made by the Chancellor as Judge of the Consistory Court of the Diocese.”

In most cases, the Chancellor delegates this authority to the minister in charge of a Church. This means that the Vicar can usually decide what is allowed in the churchyard, although sometimes a diocesan faculty is needed. The following regulations have to be observed.

Memorials

Memorials must be constructed and installed by a memorial mason in accordance with the Recommended Code of Working Practice issued by National Association of Memorial Masons. No memorial can be erected or placed in the churchyard until the approval of the Vicar has been obtained in writing.

Inscriptions

Inscriptions must be simple and reverent. Additions may be made to inscriptions at a later date, following subsequent interments in the same grave or for other good reasons. Original and additional inscriptions must be approved by the Vicar in writing.

Treatment of Grave Spaces and Maintenance

The surface of the grave should be levelled within about six months of a burial having taken place. It should then be covered in turf or seeded for grass to allow for mowing.

Kerbs, railings, posts or chains and similar items to enclose a grave are not permitted. The use of chippings or similar materials to cover the surface of a grave is not permitted.

Spring and autumn bulbs may be planted in the soil of any grave next to the headstone, but not trees, shrubs or other plants. Flowers are liable to be mown in the ordinary course of churchyard maintenance.

Wreaths and floral tributes may be laid upon a grave and cut flowers arranged in metal or stone vases placed on the memorial plinth. If there is no plinth, a vase may be sunk into the ground below ground level so as not to impede a mower when not containing flowers. Glass, ceramic and plastic containers are not permitted as they are liable to break. Silk and other good quality artificial flowers are permitted, but not plastic flowers. Wreaths and cut flowers that are withered or dead, as well as faded or decaying artificial flowers, may be removed by those maintaining the churchyard. The important thing is that graves are kept tidy and there is space for the grass over them to be cut.