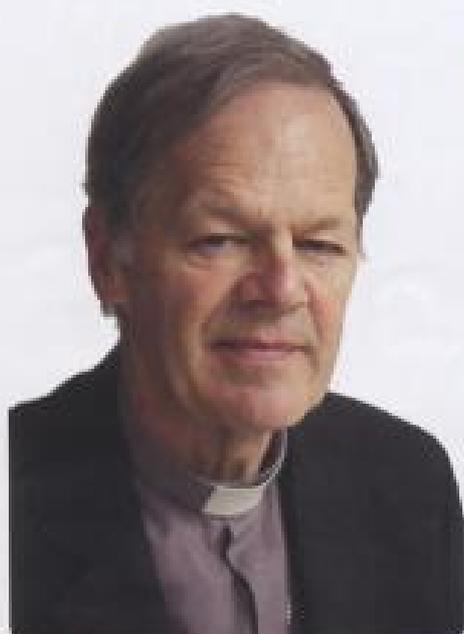


Hallowed Ground

A Guide to
Burials and
Memorials in
Churchyards

 **DIOCESE OF
LICHFIELD**
GOING FOR GROWTH



Rt Revd Jonathan Gledhill,
Bishop of Lichfield

Introduction

The death of a loved one comes as a great shock to us and we find ourselves having to make many decisions and arrangements. One of them is to consider how to mark the final resting place of our loved one.

Thank you for choosing this churchyard as the final resting place for the body or cremated remains of your loved one. This booklet is written to help you make good decisions as to how to mark that final resting place.

Our churchyards are set aside as places of quiet dignity and good order where you and others may come to reflect on the life of your loved one, the compassion and mercy of God and his promise of resurrection to eternal life through faith in Him. They are sacred and holy places.

Churchyards are public spaces and shared by many families but overseen by the church. They are places where space is limited and which, in the fullness of time, may have to be reused.



DIOCESE OF
LICHFIELD

Hallowed Ground

A Guide to Burials and Memorials In Churchyards



Churchyard Regulations are in place to help you and others mark the final resting place of your loved one in a visible way, giving you a place to visit, whilst respecting the families of others who are buried in the same churchyard.

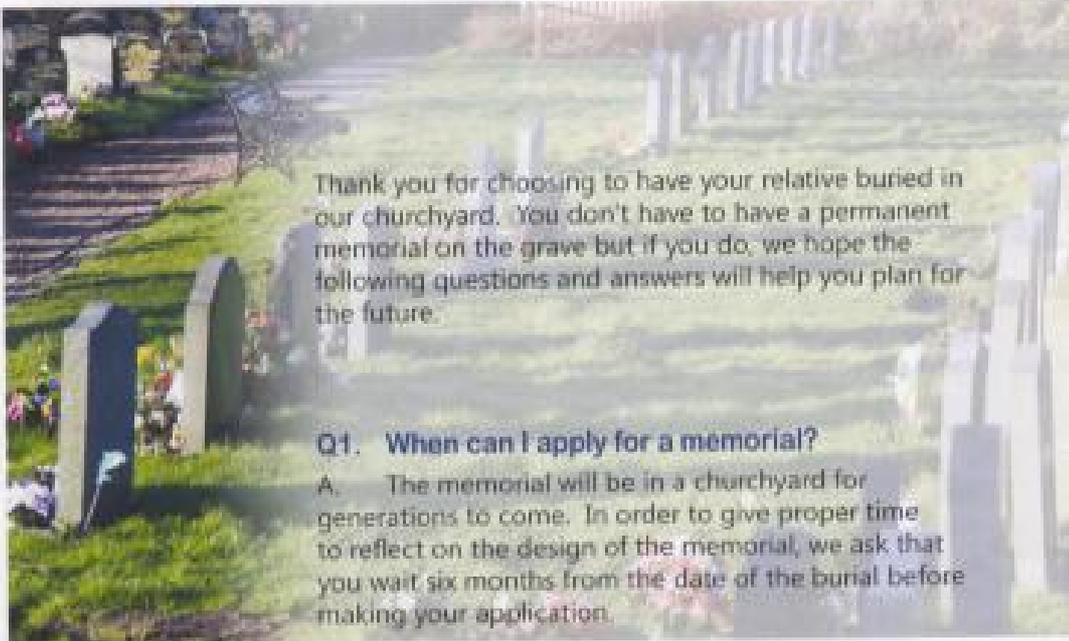
We hope that you will find this booklet helpful in making the right choice of a memorial both in design and wording. The full regulations and a fuller 'Guidance to the Bereaved' can be had from the parish priest or the Lichfield diocesan web site: www.lichfield.anglican.org/ourmission/funerals/

Please do discuss your requirements with the parish priest before making any final arrangements because no memorial can be placed in a churchyard without the written permission of the parish priest.

+Jonathan Lichfield



Churchyard Burial



Thank you for choosing to have your relative buried in our churchyard. You don't have to have a permanent memorial on the grave but if you do, we hope the following questions and answers will help you plan for the future.

Q1. When can I apply for a memorial?

A. The memorial will be in a churchyard for generations to come. In order to give proper time to reflect on the design of the memorial, we ask that you wait six months from the date of the burial before making your application.

Q2. To whom do I apply for permission for the memorial to be placed in the churchyard?

A. Applications should be made to the parish priest using the official diocesan form available from the parish priest or on line at www.lichfield.anglican.org/ourmission/funerals/

Q3. What type of stone can I choose?

A. You can choose stone which matches that of the church or other local buildings. Other stones include: Limestones, Sandstones, Granites (but not black or dark grey).

Nabresina, or Serena Stone.

The face of the memorial may be honed or polished to take the lettering.



**DIOCESE OF
LICHFIELD**

Hallowed Ground

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Q4. What size of upright memorial can I have?

- A. No higher than 1220 mm (4') and
no lower than 762 mm (2'6")
No wider than 915 mm (3') and
no narrower than 510 mm (1'8")
No thicker than 152 mm (6") and
no thinner than 76 mm (3")

A smaller memorial is permitted for a child.

Q5. Can I have a cross rather than a headstone?

- A. Yes. You may choose a stone or wooden cross of
a similar dimension to a headstone.

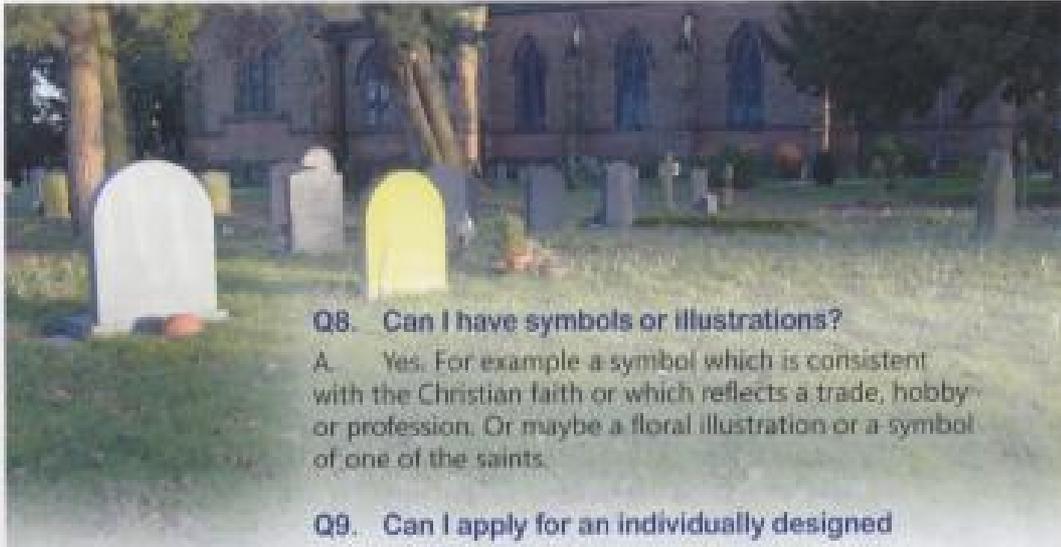
Q6. Can I have a flat memorial stone?

- A. Yes. It can be same dimensions as above but
no longer than 1830 mm (6'). It has to be set flush in
the ground without any kerb stones railings or stone
chippings.

Q7. What inscription can I have on the memorial?

- A. As well as the name and dates, an inscription can
reflect the person's unique character by using words
that are simple, accurate, reverent, and consistent with
orthodox Christian belief. Lettering can be carved into
the stone or stand proud. The lettering should not be
plastic, gold or silver.





Q8. Can I have symbols or illustrations?

A. Yes. For example a symbol which is consistent with the Christian faith or which reflects a trade, hobby or profession. Or maybe a floral illustration or a symbol of one of the saints.

Q9. Can I apply for an individually designed memorial?

A. Yes. Our churchyards can be enriched by memorials which are outside the present regulations in appearance, material and design. If you wish to have a creative and imaginative memorial you must apply to the Chancellor of the Diocese by Faculty and receive approval before ordering the memorial. (Details at the back of the booklet or on line at www.lichfield.anglican.org/ourmission/funerals/)

Q9. Can I put flowers on the grave?

A. Yes. But please do remove them once they have passed their best. Wreaths can be placed on the grave at significant times in the Christian calendar and on significant personal anniversaries. Please remove them after one month or if you cannot do that, an official member of the church (such as a churchwarden) will do so on your behalf.

Q10. What's not permitted?

A. Churchyards ought to be places of dignity and good taste so objects such as models of people,

animals, toys and balloons are not permitted. Photographs or portraits of the deceased are not permitted. Stones of irregular and unusual shape are not allowed. Nor are any objects which are designed to make any noise when moved by the wind. Inscriptions which are deemed to be flippant, over-sentimental or irreverent are not permitted.

Q11. Can the churchyards be an environmentally friendly place?

A. Yes. We are to be good stewards of the created world and these regulations are designed to be environmentally friendly. The material for the coffin must be biodegradable. The memorial must not be wholly or partly of concrete, metal, plastic, plaster or glass and no artificial flowers are permitted (except Remembrance Day poppies). Over time, our churchyards can become havens for wildflowers and insect and bird life and welcomed green spaces in our towns and cities.

Q12. Some memorials in the churchyard are outside these regulations. Why can't I have one like that?

A. Decisions on new memorials must be based on current regulations, whatever monuments have been approved in the past.

Q13. What can I do if the memorial I want is outside these churchyard regulations?

A. If the memorial you want to have is outside the Regulations or if the Vicar is unwilling to permit it then you have the right to apply to the Chancellor of the Diocese for permission. The application is made using a process known as a Faculty. Permission from the Chancellor may or may not be given. (Details of how to apply by Faculty are at the back of this booklet)



DIocese of Exeter



Diocese of Exeter



Diocese of Exeter



Diocese of Exeter



Diocese of Exeter

The Burial Of Cremated Remains

Q1. Where can I bury the cremated remains of my loved one?

A. You have two choices. If you already have a member of the family buried in the churchyard, the ashes can be buried in that grave (space permitting). An additional inscription can be added to the existing memorial (space permitting). However most churchyards have an area which has been specially set apart for the burial of cremated remains.

Q2. How are the ashes buried? (See also Q6.)

A. They are either poured directly into a pre-prepared hole or can be placed in the ground in casket with a false base which is later removed after the graveside prayers.



Q3. Can I scatter the ashes on the ground?

A. This practice is not permitted in churchyards.

Q4. Can I have an individual memorial stone?

A. There is a single memorial stone which lists the names and dates of those whose ashes are buried in this area. Additionally some churches may keep a book of remembrance. All churches have a register of the burial of cremated remains.



**DIOCESE OF
LICHFIELD**

Hallowed Ground

A Guide to Burials and Memorials in Churchyards



Q5. Why do the ashes have to be buried in this way?

A. The reason for burying ashes in this way means that the area is sustainable for years to come. The ground can be reused by future generations but still remains for ever as hallowed ground, a special and sacred place for you and others to visit.

Q6. How else can ashes be buried?

A. Some churchyards still have consecrated areas for the burial of ashes in a casket, the site of which is marked by a single flat headstone. This practice will continue until the area set aside for the burial of ashes is full. Thereafter the burial of ashes will be as described as above.

Churchyards are the final resting place for the earthly remains of our loved ones. They are places where you and others come to pray, to remember and to thank God for the life of your loved one. They are places where, by faith, you will be comforted by the promise of the gift, in Christ, of life eternal.



Applications for a Faculty are decided by the Diocesan Chancellor. The following is an extract from his judgement on an application for an unusual memorial.

"First and foremost I must take account of the nature and purpose of a churchyard. Churchyards are consecrated to God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Accordingly, they must be treated and cared for in a manner consistent with that consecrated status.

Churchyards can also fulfil important spiritual rôles and can be a powerful part of the Church's witness to the world. They provide appropriate settings for Christian places of worship and as such send out a message of the Church's commitment to worshipping God in the beauty of holiness.



"They contain memorials to departed Christians demonstrating the Church's continuing love for them and its belief in the communion of saints.

The circumstances of interment and the memorials in a churchyard can be powerful evidence of the Church's love for the local community.

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**DIOCESE OF
LICHFIELD**

Hallowed Ground
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Additional information:

This booklet is a brief summary of the Lichfield Diocesan Churchyard Regulations and of the document 'Guidance to the Bereaved' both of which can be downloaded in full at:

www.lichfield.anglican.org/ourmission/funerals/

Applications for a Faculty can be made to:

The Diocesan Registry
FBC Manby Bowdler LLP
Routh House
Hall Court
Hall Park Way
Telford TF3 4NJ

email:
c.dudley@fbcmb.co.uk

Telephone:
01952 211303



Hallowed Ground February 2024/CSS



Bereavement



Burial



Cremation



Funeral Home



Health Care

continued from p10

www.licfield.org.uk

"Churchyards are places of solace and relief for those who mourn. In addition many people find comfort in knowing that their mortal remains will be interred in a particular churchyard and in a particular setting. That comfort derives in part from a confidence that the character of that setting will be preserved.

Churchyards are also an important part of our national and local heritage.

"Our care for them is part of the Church's work of stewardship of our environment and heritage. Thus the Consistory Court must ensure that what is placed in our churchyards is fitting and appropriate against the light of those foregoing considerations. Moreover, the memorials placed in churchyards must be fitting and appropriate not just for today but also for the future."

The Chancellor of the Diocese of Lichfield is Stephen Eyre.



**DIOCESE OF
LICHFIELD**

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