

**ST MARY MAGDALENE BOLNEY
IN THE DIOCESE OF CHICHESTER.
GUIDELINES FOR THE CARE OF THE CHURCHYARD**
www.stmarymagdalenebolney.org.uk

We follow the Diocese of Chichester's general directions concerning churches and churchyards which the Parochial Church Council is bound to observe. Please follow the link 'Care of the Churchyard' to view the full directions on our website.

- The churchyard is consecrated ground; the final resting place of the mortal remains of the loved ones who have left this life. It is a place where the living can remember those who have been commended to the mercy of God; a place of peace to be respected.
- It is also a haven for many kinds of wildlife, other parts of God's creation. Some areas of our churchyard remain uncut in rotation at certain times of the year to allow wild flowers to bloom and seed. The remainder is regularly mown and hedges cut.
- The P.C.C. does what is possible to manage the churchyard in an appropriate way and is grateful to those who help to care for this special place. The guidelines we follow have been drawn up so that all may work together for this purpose and for the avoidance of causing distress.

Graves and memorials

- Bulbs and small plants can be planted and wreaths and cut flowers may be laid here. Any container used must be appropriate to the size of the grave or memorial.
- No glass to be used as broken glass becomes a hazard when the grassed area around the memorials/graves is cut. Plastic flowers, toys, are not appropriate items to leave on memorials or graves and may cause distress to other visitors to the graveyard. No shrubs or trees may be planted on graves or memorials.
- The P.C.C. can take no responsibility for the care of monuments, vases etc associated with graves and memorials.
- If a grave ceases to be cared for, the P.C.C. may do what is deemed appropriate to keep it in order.

For any further guidance please visit our website or contact a church warden
Please see noticeboard or parish magazine for contact details

**ST MARY MAGDALENE BOLNEY
IN THE DIOCESE OF CHICHESTER.
GUIDELINES FOR THE BURIAL OR INTERMENT OF ASHES IN THE
CHURCHYARD AND THE ERECTION OF MONUMENTS**
www.stmarymagdalenebolney.org.uk

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Fees and Authorities

- Charges for burial/interment will be levied at the statutory rate set by the Church of England and any additional fees set by the PCC. These are generally payable as Funeral Director disbursements although occasionally some fees may need to be paid directly to the PCC.
- By seeking to use consecrated ground, the bereaved must be aware that they are also submitting to the jurisdiction of the consistory court in all matters, including the conduct of the service and the marking of the grave.

Right of Burial or Interment

- The right of burial or interment is not restricted to the baptised, or to regular members of the congregation. Specific burial places may not be reserved, although a particular request will be considered by the Priest-in-Charge. The churchyard is reserved for the following:
 1. Persons resident in the Parish.
 2. Persons whose names are on the church electoral roll of the Parish.
 3. Persons dying in the Parish.
 4. Persons not meeting the above criteria may be buried or interred in a family grave, provided the capacity exists.
- Following burial, a headstone may be erected, or amended, but this must be in accordance with the Chancellor's Directions.
- Ashes must be placed in a bio-degradable bag, or poured into the plot. Caskets are not permitted. The place of interment of ashes may be marked by a small flat plaque, lying flush with the ground level, again subject to the Chancellor's Directions.

Exceptions

- There may be special reasons to vary this policy, or make exceptions to it. However, such variations from it may only be approved by the Priest-in-Charge, who will also take into account the Church's wider responsibilities for pastoral care.
- These may involve, despite the right at paragraph 4, consideration of any particularly outstanding contribution an individual may have made to the Parish. They may also involve consideration of individuals with historical links to the Parish. Given the sensitivity of this issue, the policy must allow a degree of flexibility.
- However, the Priest-in-Charge will consider all exceptions jointly with the PCC, having due regard to the needs of the Parish and past precedent. No variation will be applied during any Interregnum and, if necessary, the advice of the Rural Dean will be sought.
- In the case of any dispute which cannot be resolved locally, the escalation route is to the Bishop of Horsham via the Archdeacon of Horsham.

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Addition from 26th September 2007

‘The PCC will support burial applications subject to the applicant being a regular communicant and member of the electoral roll.

The reservation should only be valid whilst the applicant lives in the parish and a regular communicant of the congregation.

If the applicant leaves the parish due to hospitalisation or to a care home they would still be considered to be a communicant.

Only family graves (double depth) can be reserved.’