

Cremated remains

These can be buried either in existing family graves, or in designated areas at Breedon on the Hill, Coleorton and Worthington. Burial in the designated areas can be marked in the following way:

- At Breedon on the Hill, with a simple brass memorial plaque affixed to one of the churchyard benches;
- At Coleorton, a brass plaque can be affixed to the wall which encompasses the garden of remembrance. This must be ordered via the incumbent.
- At Worthington, a brass plaque can be affixed to the wall which surrounds the garden of remembrance.

Permission from the incumbent (vicar) is needed for each of these plaques.

Flowers

Graves must be left to lawn to facilitate mowing and appropriate churchyard maintenance.

Funeral flowers will be left on graves for 14 days after the funeral. Other flowers may be laid on graves or placed in vases integral to the headstone. No other vases may be used. All packaging must be removed from flowers before they are laid on the grave or in an integral vase.

Artificial flowers are not allowed with the exception of flowers for Remembrance-tide or Christmas. Seasonal flowers placed on graves for Christmas or Valentine's Day, for example, must be removed four weeks after the date of the festival.

Permission to erect or make changes to a headstone

Any headstone that meets the criteria set out in these Regulations must be approved by the incumbent. The stone mason engaged to create the headstone must seek this approval in writing using the appropriate Diocesan form. Only once this form is returned signed by the incumbent has permission been granted. Informal discussions which take place before this form is submitted do not constitute the granting of permission.

Permission to erect any headstone that falls outside these criteria must be sought via Faculty application. There is a cost associated with any such application and permission will be granted only in exceptional circumstances. The incumbent will be able to explain this process to those wishing to erect such a headstone.

Any headstone erected without permission is subject to removal at the expense of those erecting it.

Date

These instructions came into force on..... with the support of the Parochial Church Councils of the Flagstaff Family of Churches listed on the front of this leaflet and with permission of the Chancellor of the Diocese of Leicester.

The Flagstaff Family of Churches

Churchyard Regulations for the parishes of Breedon on the Hill Coleorton Isley Walton & Worthington

For all queries please email churchyard.enquiries@flagstaff.org.uk

Introduction

The Flagstaff Family of Churches comprises the parishes of Holy Trinity, Ashby; St Helen's, Ashby; St Mary's & St Hardulph's, Breedon on the Hill with Holy Trinity, Staunton Harold; St Mary's & St John's, Coleorton; All Saints, Isley Walton and St Matthew's, Worthington. These parishes are part of the Diocese of Leicester and under its jurisdiction.

There are open churchyards at Breedon on the Hill, Coleorton, Isley Walton and Worthington. The Diocese of Leicester's Churchyard Regulations governs what sort of memorials can be introduced to them. You can read a full copy of these guidelines at <https://www.leicester.anglican.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/09/DAC-Churchyard-Regulations-1710.pdf>

The Diocese's Churchyard Regulations begin with commending consistency in the headstones introduced into a churchyard: *A new memorial should not overshadow or outshine its neighbours, nor be flashier or larger than them. In death we are all equal, and it is pleasing to see an equivalence between the memorials, and between the stone (or other) old and new memorials in a Churchyard.* The Diocesan Regulations are designed to achieve this equivalence.

This leaflet summarises these Regulations as they apply to the churchyards within the Flagstaff Family of Churches and sets out one important derogation from them. In working with a stone mason, a family should take into account these regulations as the incumbent (the Vicar) will not be able to give permission for a headstone that falls outside these regulations.

Size of headstone

Diocesan Regulations state

Upright headstones should be:

- (a) *no more than 1200 mm high (measured from the surface of the ground), or less than 750 mm high (measured from the surface of the ground);*
- (b) *no more than 900 mm wide, or less than 500 mm wide;*
- (c) *no more than 150 mm thick, or less than 75 mm thick, except in the case of slate memorials which may be no less than 40 mm thick; 4*
- (d) *for a child the headstone may be smaller, but should be no less than 600 mm high, 375 mm wide and 50 mm thick 12.*

Horizontal stones should be no larger than 2100 mm by 900 mm.

Headstones may be of three types:

- (a) *so shaped that they can be inserted directly into the ground at sufficient depth to ensure stability;*
- (b) *on a stone base, provided that it is an integral part of the design, no more than 225 mm high, 900 mm wide or projecting 100 mm on either side; the base being no more than 360 mm front to back;*
- (c) *on a vase base, no more than 100 mm on either side; the base being no more than 375 mm front to back.*

These regulations regarding the size of headstones apply in the Flagstaff Family of Churches' churchyards.

Materials

Usually, only headstones formed out of natural stone are permitted in churchyards within the Diocese of Leicester (paragraphs 14 and 15 of the Diocesan Regulations). Inscriptions on these headstones may be picked out in black, gold or silver.

In the churchyards at Breedon on the Hill, Coleorton, Isley Walton and Worthington, plain black polished granite can also be used. Inscriptions on these headstones may be picked out in gold or silver.

Design

Diocesan Regulations state

A memorial in the form of a natural boulder, or of a cross of stone or wood including a Celtic cross is not allowed. But a wooden cross intended as a temporary memorial to mark a grave is permitted for a maximum period of two years after the burial.

The following designs or features are not permitted:

- (a) *other shapes of memorials, such as an open book or in the form of a heart;*
- (b) *kerbs, chippings, railings and chains;*
- (c) *the incorporation of a photograph or ceramic portrait of the deceased;*
- (d) *stone, concrete, metal, glass, plaster or plastic objects, such as model people, animals or toys, and windmills and jangling trinkets designed to make a noise when the wind blows.*

Other than the traditional Christian plain cross, no symbols, insignia or motifs such as flowers or things of interest in the life of the person who has died, such as a dog, a bird, a fishing rod, a tractor, a musical instrument or a motorcycle, are permitted.

These regulations regarding the design of headstones apply in the Flagstaff Family of Churches' churchyards. Please note that (d) above includes any form of lighting. This is not permitted.

Inscriptions

Diocesan Regulations state:

The inscription should be simple and consistent with the Christian belief of life after death. It should not be confined to expressions of personal loss or sorrow. It may record what the deceased did or some feature of his or her character ("a skilled tailor", or "a much-loved father and grandfather" or "a kind and gentle daughter"). It may include a biblical text, or extract from a poem, or a suitable phrase with Christian connotations. Sentimental expressions should be discouraged.

These regulations regarding the inscription on headstones apply in the Flagstaff Family of Churches' churchyards, where inscriptions to headstones must be rendered in a simple type-face.