

All Saints' Church, Clifton Churchyard Regulations



**DIOCESE OF
ST ALBANS**
Living God's Love

A place for peace and quiet reflection



We endeavour to make our churchyard a place of peace and quiet reflection for those who are coming to visit the graves of their loved ones. Each of us has individual needs as we work through grief and although the regulations covering this burial space do seem onerous they are there to provide a lovely place for all those who visit.

Responsibility for maintaining our churchyard in Clifton rests with the Parochial Church Council. We receive a grant from the Parish Council but most of the cost is met by members of the congregation. We have a contractor who regularly cuts the grass during the growing season and this is supplemented by people in the parish who volunteer in working parties to carry out other maintenance tasks.

Please help us by following the regulations in this leaflet and by disposing of any flowers or other vegetation in the compost area (behind the holly hedge) Please put all wreaths, plastic, metal and paper in the wheelie bin.

St Alban's Diocese Regulations

All Saints' Clifton churchyard is part of our Christian heritage to provide for the reverent burial of those who die in the parish. Ownership of all grave spaces remains vested in the Parish Priest; responsibility for management of the churchyard rests with the Parish Priest and the Parochial Church Council within the regulations of the Diocese of St Albans published in 2020. A full copy of the regulations is available from the parish priest or from the Diocesan website. Funeral directors can provide guidance on dimensions for memorials and we include some key points from the regulations below.

By arranging for the interment of a loved one in a churchyard bereaved relatives are agreeing to abide by the Diocesan Regulations.

Regulations for Garden of Remembrance for burial of cremated remains:

- **Ashes** after cremation must not be scattered or strewn but shall be buried loose, directly into the burial plot allocated.
 - No **memorial** may be introduced, renewed, removed or altered without first obtaining permission. Funeral Directors can provide guidance on the process, choice of plaques and wording.
 - **Memorial plaques** can be mounted on the wall (by the Funeral Director) within the dimensions allowed and to include a simple inscription with the person's name, relevant dates, and the grid reference to the burial plot.
 - **Fresh flowers** or other floral tributes (eg wreaths) may be left near the plaques on the wall, but must not be placed on the grass.
 - Dead flowers, or other items, will be removed during regular maintenance of the churchyard.
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Churchyard regulations for burials:

Funeral Directors can provide information on **headstones and memorials**, including: materials, dimensions and appropriate wording which are permitted within the Diocesan Regulations.

Headstones and memorials

- Temporary wooden crosses are only permitted until the headstone is in place and should then be removed.
- No headstone or memorial may be introduced, renewed, removed or altered without first obtaining permission.
- Headstones and memorials must be within the dimensions allowed and shall be of natural stone and non-reflective.
- Headstones and memorials should not include any advertisement, trademark or QR code and all wording should be within the regulations.

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- Only one headstone or memorial is permitted on each grave.
- A limited number of memorial benches are allowed in the churchyard, and can be in place for up to 15 years.

Grave spaces

- For aesthetic reasons and to facilitate the maintenance of the churchyard stone chippings, kerbs, glass vases, jam jars or other ornaments are not allowed. All of these items might present a danger to our maintenance teams.
- Grave spaces must be level and grassed about a year after the interment.
- Flower vases may be incorporated into the headstone but separate flower vases elsewhere in the grave space are not permitted.
- Fresh flowers are permitted within vases and bulbs may be planted in the grave space.
- Other items are not permitted; these include but are not limited to: artificial flowers, perennials, shrubs, stones, lights or photographs.
- Silk flowers may be used when they reflect the season of the year and should then be removed.
- Items not permitted within the regulations or dead flowers will be removed during regular maintenance of the churchyard.

O Father of all,
we pray to thee for those, whom we love,
but see no longer.

Grant them thy peace;
let light perpetual shine upon them;
and in thy loving wisdom and almighty power
work in them the good purpose
of thy perfect will;

through Jesus Christ our Lord.

AMEN

