

General Layout and Floral Tributes

In keeping with the overall design of the Garden of Remembrance, early spring bulbs like snowdrops and aconites, which have finished flowering and died back before mowing starts, may be planted near individual plots. Alternatively, you may choose to plant other native bulbs or wildflowers in the beds between the holly bushes. A list of plants flowering at different times of the year is available from the churchwardens and the Garden Team of East Cambs District Council, who maintain the churchyard, will be happy to advise and assist you. Please do not plant anything in the beds without seeking advice.

The planting of other shrubs, flowers or later flowering bulbs like daffodils is not permitted in the grassy area around the plots. In the same way, pots, vases and artificial flowers are not allowed as they would be out of keeping and would disrupt the maintenance of the grass. Floral tributes such as wreaths that are left near the plots will be removed when they have faded or to allow maintenance to take place.

Book of Remembrance

Inside St Mary's, there is a Book of Remembrance in which departed loved ones are commemorated. The book is displayed in a case near the war memorial and there is a new page for each month. The names of the departed may be recorded at the anniversary of their death or some other significant date, together with a suitable brief inscription or verse. If you would like to remember your loved one in this way, please ask the Vicar or Churchwardens for further details.

(Note: These guidelines are effective from January 2009. Memorials etc in place prior to that date should not be taken as a precedent for what will be permitted)



St Mary's Burwell PCC

Guidelines for the Interment of Ashes in the Garden of Remembrance

Mar 2018



Most people will read these guidelines when they have recently lost a loved one and if this applies to you, may we first assure you that the clergy and congregation of St Mary's are holding you in their prayers at this time of your bereavement and in the weeks and months to come. We hope that you regard the church and churchyard as a place of peace, where you can come to remember your loved one and feel closer to God.

St Mary's churchyard is covered by the Faculty Jurisdiction Rules of the Diocese of Ely, under which certain arrangements have been approved and restrictions set. The aim of these regulations is to ensure that anything added to the churchyard is in keeping with the history and architecture of our beautiful mediaeval church and with the many ancient gravestones, which are in our churchyard. In addition to these diocesan regulations, more practical considerations are necessary for the convenient maintenance of the churchyard, which is the responsibility of East Cambs District Council.

The churchyard is now closed for burials, but space is still available for the interment of ashes. Two areas have been set aside for this – the first area adjacent to the north wall of the church was set aside in 1996 and is now almost full. These guidelines will therefore mainly refer to the second area on the north-western edge near the Guildhall, which was set aside in 2008.

This new area is designed to be a pleasant Garden of Remembrance in which native wild plants and other wildlife are encouraged. On one side it is bounded by a hedge of native trees and shrubs and on the other side by a row of holly bushes and wide beds of wildflowers. The central section, which contains the ashes plots, is of grass and will be mown regularly to keep it short.

Rights of Interment of Ashes

Parishioners and other people who die in the parish have the right to have their ashes interred in the churchyard, provided there is room and at the discretion of the Vicar. He/she may also permit the remains of other people to be interred in the churchyard.

Location of Ashes

Ashes may be interred in defined plots within the area set aside for this purpose under the authority of a faculty. Ashes may not be scattered in the churchyard. If they are buried in a container, it must be of biodegradable material. The plots are located on a grid and are 60cm x 60cm in size and are at least 60 cm deep. Please consult the Vicar or churchwardens for further information.

Memorial Tablets

Individual plots may be marked with a memorial tablet measuring 30cm x 30cm, in accordance with the Churchyard Regulations of the Diocese of Ely. Tablets should be made of traditional natural stone. Materials especially recommended are Forest of Dean, Horton Blue, Ketton, Nabrasina/Roman Stone, Portland and York (limestones), Northumberland (standstone), and Welsh Black and Westmoreland Green slates. The stone may not be polished or finished in any way to give the effect of polished stone, but the surface may be suitably prepared for inscription.

The tablets must be laid flat at 25mm below ground level, to allow the whole area to be mowed. For the same reason, there should be no vases or protruding areas.

The memorial tablets may be inscribed with names and dates of the deceased. They may also include a simple, appropriate and relevant inscription, which does not exceed one line as laid out on the tablet. The exact number of words will depend on the font used and your stone-mason will be able to advise you what is possible.