

St Nicholas Church, Middleton on Sea

Regulations for Churchyard

1. The churchyard is closed for burials.
2. The churchyard regulations regarding best practice, applications, headstones, memorials, prohibitions etc., are detailed in the Chancellors General Directions Concerning Churches and Churchyards.
3. The churchyard is open for interring cremated ashes.
4. The cremated remains of the following persons, and no others, may be interred in the gardens of remembrance designated in the Churchyard Plan namely:
 - a. Persons resident in the parish;
 - b. Persons whose names are on the church electoral roll of the parish;
 - c. Persons dying in the parish;
 - d. Any other person to the interment of whose remains the incumbent consents and, in giving such consent, the incumbent shall have regard to any general guidance given by the PCC.
5. Ashes may not be buried in a container of any description. Ashes are to be poured into the ground, from the container in which they are brought to the burial site, by the minister committing them to the earth and then covered with soil.
6. Cremation plots are maximum twelve inches square and eighteen to twenty-four inches deep, enough to accommodate the remains of two persons.
7. Areas have been designated within the churchyard where the interment of ashes can be marked with a stone to mark the plot. The stone must be 12in x 12in x 2in (300mm x 300mm x 50mm). The type of stone and lettering must comply with the headstone regulations. These areas are approved by the PCC and marked on the Graveyard plan. Plots will be allotted sequentially by the incumbent.
8. Applications can be made to the Consistory Court of the Diocese of Chichester to petition for a faculty for the reservation of a grave space. Such applications must be approved by the incumbent, PCC and finally the Chancellor of the Diocesan Registrar of Chichester. If approved the applicant is responsible for marking and maintaining the location until used and the successful faculty must be recorded in the Register.

9. Ashes interred in the designated Garden of Remembrance shall not be marked by any memorial or otherwise but the personal representatives of any person whose remains are interred in the Garden of Remembrance may, on payment of such charge as the PCC shall from time to time prescribe, require an appropriate entry to be made in the Book of Remembrance maintained in the church.
10. No artificial flowers or foliage may be laid anyway in the Garden of Remembrance. Flowers may not be placed in vases or other containers. All flowers and wreaths placed in the plot may be removed when they are dead or wilted.
11. The place of interment in the Garden of Remembrance may be used for the interment of other ashes after a lapse of 25 years, always provided that reasonable attempts shall be made by the PCC to enquire from members of the family of the deceased whether they object and, should such objection be made, re-use of that location will be deferred for a further minimum period of 5 years, up to a maximum of 25 years. The deferral period will be decided by the PCC based on the available space and the needs of the Parishioners.
12. For the avoidance of doubt, the following are not permitted in the Church Graveyard:
 - a. kerbs, railings, fencing or chippings as these create difficulty or danger when mowing
 - b. memorials in the shape of vases, hearts, open books
 - c. memorials incorporating photographs or portraits
 - d. mementoes, windmills, toys or little animals
 - e. the use of 'pet names'
 - f. artificial flowers
13. For the avoidance of doubt, the following extracts from the Chancellors General Directions Concerning Churches and Churchyards, specify the headstone regulations regarding materials, lettering, appearance etc. which must be complied with:
 - a. The following stone is permitted: limestone, Portland slate, Hopton Wood Granite and Hornton Sandstone (colours specified in the General Directions)
 - b. Polished stone or mirror finish is not permitted
 - c. Coloured lettering is not permitted save as detailed in the General Directions
 - d. It is essential that inscriptions are factually accurate and are written in such a way as to be comprehensible by future generations

