



The Anglican Parishes of Whittington, Weeford and Hints

He has told you, what is good and what the Lord requires of you; to do justice and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God

Churchyard Policy: St Giles', Whittington

This policy aims to set out guidelines for our churchyard in respect of legal and diocesan directives but shaped by a pastorally sensitive and compassionate local perspective.

Who has the legal right to be buried or to have their ashes interred in any consecrated burial ground forming part of the churchyard?

A person who:

- a) lived in the parish at the time of their death: or
- b) died in the parish: or
- c) was on the church electoral role of the parish at the time of their death

Additional qualification adopted by the Parochial Church Council for St Giles Whittington

A burial or cremation plot can be allowed:

- 1) For anyone who has a husband or wife, a parent or grandparent, a child or two generations of their immediate family already buried within the churchyard and also strong on-going links with the parish
- 2) Lived in the parish for more than 5 years at any time and can demonstrate this
- 3) Was married at St Giles' Church
- 4) Was a priest licensed to St Giles' at any time
- 5) Has a sensitive pastoral need that is agreed by incumbent

Burials and Memorials in Churchyards

St. Giles' Church welcomes with love those who have been bereaved. It extends to them Christ's promise of victory over death. It seeks to ensure that its churchyards will be fitting resting places for the mortal remains of their departed loved ones both now and in the future.

Decisions about what may be placed in a churchyard cannot be a matter of private choice. Before any memorial is placed in the churchyard written permission from the parish priest or the Chancellor is required. The Diocesan Churchyard Regulations set out what can and what cannot be permitted. This document is only a brief summary of some of the key parts of those Regulations. Those considering a burial in a churchyard or wishing to erect a memorial should read the Churchyard Regulations (a copy of which can be obtained from the Diocesan website). They are urged to discuss matters with the parish priest at an early stage and well

before any arrangements have been made with a monumental mason.

To allow time for proper reflection an application for a memorial should not *ordinarily* be made until four months after a burial or interment of cremated remains.

It is important to remember that the Churchyard Regulations control what a parish priest can and cannot allow. No matter how sympathetic he or she may be to a particular proposal if it is outside the Regulations it cannot be authorized by the parish priest and will be declined for you to reconsider or refer to the Chancellor.

The Diocesan churchyard regulations

These Regulations are made by the Diocesan Chancellor and set out the type of memorial that the minister of the Parish may permit without the requirement of a Faculty of the Diocesan Chancellor.

Compliance with the Diocesan Churchyard Regulation is a matter of legal obligation. The regulations also set out restrictions regarding the type of inscription permitted and prohibitions regarding kerbs, railings, stones, chippings, garden areas, photographs, artificial flowers and similar matters.

A written application for a memorial must be made on the official diocesan form. No arrangements should be confirmed with a monumental mason before permission has been given for the proposed memorial. Many monumental masons deal with this process for the family. Those considering the erection of a memorial are strongly recommended to consult the parish priest at an early stage.

The Parish Priest can permit:

- a) An upright memorial stone within the following dimensions:
 - i. Height: No more than 1220mm (4') not less than 762mm (2'6")
 - ii. Width: No more than 915mm (3') not less than 510mm (1'8")
 - iii. Thickness: Thickness no more than 152mm (6") not less than 76mm (3") except for slate which may be a minimum of 40mm (1½") thick
- b) In the case of the burial of a child a smaller memorial stone may be permitted but in such a case the stone should be no less than 610mm (2') high, 380mm (1' 3") wide and 51mm (2") thick
- c) Stone crosses of similar dimensions to headstones and hardwood crosses may be permitted. A wooden cross is to be no more than 915mm (3') high and the transom is to be of commensurate length
- d) A flat memorial stone without kerbs and flush with the ground may be permitted if it is of equivalent dimensions to those set out above save that a length of no more than 1830mm (6') shall be permissible for flat memorial stones
- e) Memorials made of a stone of the colour, type, and texture used in building the church or local buildings or a stone closely similar to those in colour and texture. The Regulations list stones which are likely to be appropriate for use in a churchyard.

Polished granites, marbles, or synthetic stones **are not** appropriate for use in a churchyard. **All Whittington stones should be honed**

- f) Inscriptions which are simple, reverent, and appropriate to a churchyard. They should commemorate accurately the life of the person who has died. They must also be consistent with orthodox Christian belief and should not be confined solely to expressions of personal loss or sorrow. Inscriptions need not be confined to the name and the dates of the person who has died. Inscriptions reflecting the particular character of the person being commemorated are encouraged

Memorial Graves for ashes

- a) A flat memorial stone without kerbs and flush with the ground is permitted with dimensions of 21X 21 inches
- b) Memorials made of a stone of the colour, type, and texture used in building the church or local buildings or a stone closely similar in colour and texture. The Regulations list stones which are likely to be appropriate for use in a churchyard. Polished granites, marbles, or synthetic stones are not permitted. **Stones should be honed**
- c) Inscriptions which are simple, reverent, and appropriate to a churchyard. They should commemorate accurately the life of the person who has died. They must also be consistent with orthodox Christian belief and should not be confined solely to expressions of personal loss or sorrow. Inscriptions need not be confined to the name and the dates of the person who has died. Inscriptions reflecting the particular character of the person being commemorated are encouraged

What the parish priest can permit with the approval of the Archdeacon

The parish priest may permit a small plain cross or floral symbol. With the agreement of the Archdeacon he or she may also permit a single symbol which has a particular relevance to the life of the deceased (such as the symbol of a patron saint, the tool or symbol of a particular trade, occupation, hobby, or pursuit, a regimental badge, professional insignia, or the like). Symbols may express an element of humour and the tradition of symbols in the form of a rebus or visual pun is to be encouraged.

The Parish Priest cannot permit:

- a) Anything which is not clearly authorized by the Churchyard Regulations
- b) A memorial which includes kerbs, railings, or chippings
- c) Any memorial or element of a memorial which involves stone, concrete, metal, glass, plaster, or plastic objects whether in the form of model people, animals, or toys or otherwise
- d) Any object designed to make a noise when moved by the wind
- e) An inscription which is inaccurate, inconsistent with orthodox Christian belief, over-sentimental, flippant, or irreverent

Where proposed memorials are outside of regulation

Memorials outside the scope of the Regulations can only be permitted after a faculty (legal agreement by Chancellor) has been granted, these are rare. Those considering applying for such a memorial should consult the parish priest at an early stage. If necessary, guidance can then be obtained from the Archdeacon or the Registry as to the procedure to be adopted.

A written application for a memorial must be made on the official diocesan form. No arrangements should be made with a monumental mason before permission has been given for the proposed memorial. Those considering the erection of a memorial are strongly recommended to consult the parish priest at an early stage.

Reservation of burial plots

A reservation for a burial or cremation plot can be allowed for anyone who has a spouse, parent or child already buried within the churchyard and also strong on-going links with the parish.

A written request has to be submitted to the Parochial Church Council through the priest for approval. An allocated plot number will then be given to the applicant. The applicant then has to complete an application to the Chancellor on an official diocesan form and pay the legal fees. After receiving approval, the applicant must place a marker in the allocated plot (in association with the priest) within 2 months of the approval date. The applicant must then order a flat stone 11x11 at their own cost of stone in keeping with others in the churchyard. The stone should indicate reserved plot, family name and faculty number.

Coffins

The material used for coffins must be biodegradable. As part of its stewardship of the created world the Church encourages the use of coffins made of wool, wicker, or cardboard (suitably lined).

Flowers and other Items

Artificial flowers are not permitted. By way of exception to this prohibition the placing of wreaths and poppies is permitted in the periods of and leading up to Remembrance Day, Christmas, and Easter and on the anniversaries of death or marriage. Such items are to be removed not more than one month after those occasions. No other portable or man-made items are to be left on a grave except that such items may be left in position for the period of no more than one calendar month after a funeral. They must then be removed.

The Dyott Cemetery

This is administered according to the rights of the Trust deed. Contact the Freeford Estate.