

# CHURCHYARD RULES & REGULATIONS

## for BURIALS / INTERMENTS & INSTALLATION OF HEADSTONES

The Beacon Parishes Mission Community churchyards are governed strictly by statute and Diocesan regulations:

### Burials and Interments of Ashes in the Churchyard

**Any burial or interment of ashes must have the approval of the Parish Priest (The Rector).**

### Applications to Install Headstones and Monuments/Tablets Over Ashes in the Churchyard

A minimum period of six months should elapse between the burial of a person to be commemorated and the erection of a permanent memorial, to allow the ground to settle.

**You must have written permission for installation of a headstone, tablet over ashes, vase or other memorial, prior to erecting any monuments in the churchyard.**

To arrange a headstone, please contact a local memorial stonemason of your choice. The stonemason will then prepare and send your application (*'Application for Introduction of a MONUMENT or TABLET in a Churchyard OR for an ADDITION to a Monument, or an Inscription'*) along with the relevant fees, to our Church Office or the Reverend, to request signed approval from the Reverend.

The 'Churchyard Regulations 2013' can be found on our Beacon Parishes Mission Community website and also on the Diocese of Exeter website:

<http://www.missioncommunity.org.uk/headstones-monuments>

<https://exeter.anglican.org/resources/church-buildings/churchyards>

Alternatively, you can contact the Reverend or the Church Office to obtain a hard copy of the Churchyard Regulations 2013.

The application form that the stonemasons will complete with you is on the last 3 pages of the 'Churchyard Regulations 2013'. The relevant parochial fees for the applications can also be found on those websites.

Once the Church Office or the Reverend has received your application, we will check the proposed application is in line with the current Churchyard Regulations and confirm that with the stonemasons or let them know if any alterations need to be made, so they can proceed with creating and installing the monument.

The Churchyard Regulations 2013 for Church of England churchyards, include strict rules concerning the design of monuments, including, type of stone, colour of stone, shape, size of the monument and colour of engravings.

#### **The maximum sizes for monuments:**

Headstones	4ft high x 3ft wide x 6" deep
Headstones for infant burials	33" high x 15" wide x 6" deep
Tablets over ashes (laid level with turf)	(approx. 2" high x) 18" wide x 18" deep
Small vase over ashes	12" high x 8" wide x 8" deep

*A headstone may stand on a base of the same stone which does not project more than 8" in front of the headstone.*

#### **Permitted Materials:**

Stone (i.e. granite) must be light grey in colour - not darker than Rustenburgh grey (Black, blue, red white or very dark grey stone is not permitted). The finish must be rustic or honed (not polished). The stone must be natural stone (not synthetic stone or plastic).

#### **Engravings:**

Inscriptions must be simple, reverent, appropriate and of Christian significance. They must be incised, and lettering may be in black, white or silver paint or gold leaf (not gold paint). Plastic and lead inlaid lettering is not permitted. Simple pictorial engravings using no colour are permitted, provided that the Parish Priest approves the subject.

Subsequent additions to an inscription must be approved separately.

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