

# CHURCHYARD REGULATIONS 2013

## INTRODUCTORY NOTES

from the Church Buildings Office



### FOR PARISHIONERS AND BEREAVED FAMILIES:

You must have permission before putting up a headstone or plaque or other memorial in a churchyard or church burial ground. You can obtain this from the parish priest (called the rector, the vicar or the priest-in-charge) but he or she can give permission only if the memorial complies with these Regulations. You or your funeral director or monumental mason must complete the form at the end of the Churchyard Regulations and give it to the parish priest who will sign it and return it if he gives permission.

If you want something different it is open to you to apply to the Chancellor of the Diocese. You do this by petitioning for a faculty and the parish priest will explain who you should contact. This can be expensive and there is no guarantee that your application will be successful. Accordingly you may not be able to have what you want if it does not comply with these Regulations and you should think about this carefully before you decide that the interment should be in the churchyard or church burial ground. You may decide to have the interment elsewhere.

You should also be aware that the Regulations deal with the placing of flowers and vases on a grave.

In some churchyards the Parochial Church Council makes additional regulations and you should read those carefully.

Responsibility for the safe installation of any memorial rests with the monumental mason. The person who purchased the memorial and, after that person's death, the heirs of the deceased have an ongoing liability for its maintenance in a safe condition.

Finally, nationally agreed fees are payable for funerals, burials and memorials. The current fees are exhibited on the church notice board.