

## **SYNOPSIS OF RULES FOR MEMORIALS WITHIN THE CHURCHYARD AND GARDEN OF REMEMBRANCE, ALL SAINTS LEEK WOOTTON**

The following is not comprehensive, but gives an outline of what is permitted in this churchyard. These rules are not designed to make your life difficult. They are there to ensure that the churchyard continues to look as beautiful as it does now and that future maintenance is as easy as possible. Regrettably some parts of the churchyard have become dominated by alien stones, particularly granites with gilded lettering. The fact that alien stones exist is no justification for the pattern to continue and permission for such stones will not be given in the future. It is important to note that grave areas do not become the property of the deceased's family and so should not be treated as a private area. If you have any queries please make contact with the Vicar or one of the churchwardens, but please remember that we are stewards of the churchyard on behalf of the Diocese and have very limited delegated authority or discretionary powers.

### **1. Permission**

No memorial of any kind may be placed in the churchyard without permission having first been obtained from the incumbent. The incumbent may only give permission for monuments which conform to current Diocesan rules. Permission for a monument that does not conform can only be obtained by the submission of a faculty application to the Chancellor of the Diocese. This begins a legal process which will incur significant cost whatever the eventual outcome.

### **2. Vases and Plants**

Vases for cut flowers should be of a suitable stone (not glass, china or plastic) and must not exceed 12" x 8" x 8". No other vases are permitted, including plastic cones sunk into the ground. Small plants in earthenware pots (no more than two) are permitted to be placed by the headstone.

For cremated remains plots with a memorial plaque, one small plant in an earthenware pot may be placed, or some cut flowers laid, on the stone.

### **3. Ornaments**

No ornaments are permitted to be placed on or around a grave. This includes photos, toys, balloons etc.

### **4. Artificial Flowers**

No artificial flowers are permitted except for remembrance poppies during the month of November, and Christmas Wreaths between December 18<sup>th</sup> and January 6<sup>th</sup>.

### **5. Planting**

No planting of any kind, nor disturbance of the ground, is permitted on graves or around cremated remains plots. The only exception to this is that up to six bulbs may be planted near the headstone of a grave plot provided that the turf is replaced after planting.

**6. Rules for Burial Memorials**

- Vertical headstones or crosses shall not exceed one metre in height. Monuments in the shape of books or hearts are not permitted
- Slabs shall be laid flat and sunk level with the ground. Kerbs, chippings and railings are not permitted
- Headstones and slabs must be of a natural stone of a colour type and texture to blend with the churchyard\*. Alternatively English oak may be used.
- No other material may be used or incorporated.
- Lettering should be incised and gilding or silvering is not permitted. Letters may be highlighted in black, grey or brown.
- Images and statues are banned unless granted by faculty from the Chancellor. Carved images require a faculty from the Diocese.
- Photographs are not permitted as part of the memorial.

**7. Rules for Cremated Remains Memorials**

- Only slabs of 30cm square laid flat in the ground are permitted
- Only natural stone\* and incised lettering highlighted in black, grey or brown is permitted.

\* **Cotswold, York, Purbeck and Portland stone meet the requirements set out above and Slate (unpolished) is also acceptable for Cremated Remains Memorials. We have been advised that any request for Granite would fall outside our delegated authority and so would require a faculty application which would not be guaranteed to be successful.**