

## **Rules & Guidelines for Cremated Plot Memorials in St. Mary's Churchyard, Stretton.**

In conjunction with the Diocese of Lichfield's rules and guidelines for memorials for graves, the PCC of St. Mary's Church, Stretton has authorised this set of rules and guidelines to come into force on 20<sup>th</sup> March 2025 and supersedes all previous rules irrespective of previous custom and practice within the cremated remain plot in the churchyard.

**It should be noted that dimensions for memorials in the cremated remains plots are smaller than in the graveyard due to the smaller plots. Larger memorials make it very difficult for mourners to access their spaces.**

- a) The reserving of plots whether by payment or otherwise is not allowed.
- b) **Memorial stones on plots where cremated remains are interred should be:**
  - 50cm. wide and not more than 50cm. in length (including plinth)
  - 5cm. high flat or 10cm. high wedge shape (if laid flat)
  - Not more than 50cm. total height or 50cm. width (if upright)
  - In line with any adjacent stone, **and not** consist of pink mottled, dark grey granite or white marble.
  - Each plot should be 60cm. (wide) by 85cm.
  - The material used for cremated memorials should be natural stone selected from those permitted by the Diocese. These being in granite mid or light grey. **Please note dark grey or black granite is not permitted, nor is polished stone.**
- c) The upright stone, or base if used, should be fixed on a foundation slab that is flush with the ground so that a mower may pass freely over it. This slab should extend between 7.5cm. to 15cm. all around. Due regard should be paid to the nature of the ground and the problem of settlement The PCC is anxious that good design should be encouraged and that variations of shape should be permitted both for the upright and the base.
- d) **Artificial flowers are not permitted.** By way of exception to this prohibition the placing of wreaths and poppies are permissible in the periods 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. If the items are not removed by those who placed them they will be removed by the Churchwarden/s or person authorised by them.
- e) Inscriptions should be simple, reverent and appropriate to a churchyard. Inscriptions should be incised, or in relief, and may be painted. Plastic lettering is not permitted nor is the gilding or silvering of lettering.
- f) Regarding carvings on headstones **the embossing upon headstones of general symbols** such as roses, candles, tracery windows etc. is not encouraged but may be allowed on pastoral grounds. However, a symbol having particular relevance to the deceased such as a regimental badge, trade or professional insignia etc is acceptable.
- g) Additional inscriptions may be added to existing memorials

This sheet is intended for issue to members of the family of the deceased

- h) No advertisement or trademark should be inscribed on a headstone. The mason's name or the mason's company name may be inscribed at the side or on the reverse in unlead letters, no larger than 1.3cm. in height.
- i) Photographs are not allowed as part of Churchyard memorials, or portraits (whether ceramic, engraved or painted), nor should they bear embossed symbols.
  - Care of the churchyard's cremated remains and the burial site to the left of them is mainly maintained by volunteers working closely with the PCC of St Mary's and they do all they can to keep the grass cut and the churchyard up to a high standard. Help us to help you in keeping the memorials of your loved ones clean and tidy and within the guidelines from the diocese.

On the next page are extracts from the Diocese Churchyard regulations.

## DIOCESE OF LICHFIELD CHANCELLOR'S CHURCHYARD REGULATIONS

These Regulations set out what is and what is not permitted in the churchyards of the Lichfield Diocese. In particular they set out those memorials and related items which can and those which cannot be permitted by parish priests without the need for a faculty from the Chancellor. Clergy and churchwardens are reminded that can only permit those memorials which are within their authority under these Regulations. Any application for a memorial which does not accord with these Regulations should be referred to the Chancellor (through the Registry) or to the Archdeacon.

Clergy should also refer to the Chancellor or the Archdeacon any application of the following kinds:

- a) Applications as to which there is any doubt as to whether the proposed memorial is of a permitted type.
- b) Applications where the incumbent or churchwardens believe that they are being subjected to pressure to permit an unauthorised memorial.
- c) Applications where the memorial is of a permissible type but where the incumbent, for any reason, is not willing to give permission.

## DIOCESE OF LICHFIELD CHANCELLOR'S CHURCHYARD REGULATIONS

### *The Nature of Churchyards.*

*First and foremost, churchyards are consecrated to God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Accordingly, they must be treated and cared for in a manner consistent with that consecrated status. Churchyards can also fulfil important spiritual roles and can be a powerful part of the Church's witness to the world. They provide appropriate settings for Christian places of worship and as such send out a message of the Church's commitment to worshipping God in the beauty of holiness. They contain memorials to departed Christians demonstrating the Church's continuing love for them and its belief in the communion of saints. The circumstances of interment and the memorials in a churchyard can be powerful evidence of the Church's love for the local community. Churchyards are places of solace and relief for those who mourn. In addition, many people find comfort in knowing that their mortal remains will be interred in a particular churchyard and in a particular setting. That comfort derives in part from a confidence that the character of that setting will be preserved. Churchyards are also an important part of our national and local heritage.*

*Our care for them is part of the Church's work of stewardship of our heritage and of the created world. Accordingly, the memorials placed in our churchyards must be fitting and appropriate and they must be fitting and appropriate not just for today but also for the future.*

For more information regarding the Chancellors Churchyard Regulations follow this link:

<https://d3hgrlq6yacptf.cloudfront.net/5f3ffdd147bb3/content/pages/documents/266edd93f0a66fd8655699db77249d5d3bc33181.pdf>

**Thank you from St Mary's PCC and Church Warden.**