

**PARISH CHURCH OF ST.JAMES THE GREAT  
HANSLOPE**

**Churchyard Regulations 2016**

1. A parishioner has the right to be buried in the churchyard. In order to preserve sufficient burial space for this, and future generations, permission will not normally be given for interment to those who do not live in the parish, except where use is made of an existing grave, or where the deceased had previously been a resident in the parish but has moved, into a residential or care home. Non-parishioners may only be buried in the churchyard if a faculty has previously been obtained for the reservation of a particular grave space whilst living in the Parish. Interment will be at a place within the churchyard directed by the incumbent.
2. The strict right of a parishioner is confined to that of interment. The erection of a tombstone or monument over a grave, though customary, remains a privilege, and no monument may be erected in the churchyard without the authority of the Incumbent, who acts on behalf of the Chancellor of the Diocese. The incumbent may, at his discretion, refer permission for a memorial to the Chancellor.
3. From the date of these regulations, only two types of memorials stones will be accepted:
  - a. **Monuments: Permitted Dimensions**
    - i. Maximum Height 1220mm (48") (In practice, locally headstones do not exceed 955mm(36"))
    - ii. Maximum width 915mm (36") (In practice, locally headstones do not exceed 610mm(24"))
    - iii. Thickness 75mm to 155mm (3" to 6")
    - iv. Slate minimum thickness 40mm (3")
    - v. Any base may have the provision for not more than two vases
    - vi. Must not take the form of a statue or particular object except the form of a book.
  - b. **Ledger Stones: Permitted Dimensions**
    - i. Maximum Length 460mm (18")
    - ii. Maximum Width 460mm (18")
    - iii. Must be square or rectangle
  - c. **Other Design requirements:**
    - i. No lighting whether electric or otherwise.
    - ii. Must not include, portrait, photograph or other image of an individual
    - iii. Must not any other pictures or imagery except a black, white or uncoloured etching or carving which may be permitted provided that it is reverent & not indicative of beliefs contrary to the doctrine of the Church of England & must not covers more the one-fifth of the surface of the monument or ledger.
    - iv. Must not include any moulding, video or sound recording, a QR code or other machine readable label
    - v. Must not include any kerbs or other fencing or other demarcation.
    - vi. Must not include any stone or glass chippings.
    - vii. Can be inscribed with a stonemason's mark but not in a prominent position.
  - d. **Materials permitted:**
    - i. Must be made of natural stone or hardwood
    - ii. The surface of the stone must not be made reflective by being polished or finely honed
    - iii. The stone must not be black, blue, red or green (or appears to be any of these colours) or otherwise brightly coloured.
    - iv. The stone must not be made of marble, synthetic, plastic or painted.

**e. Inscriptions permitted:**

- i. May include an inscription provided it is simple, reverent & not contrary to the doctrine of the Church of England
- ii. It may include quotations from the Bible or from literary sources (Subject restrictions at e i)
- iii. In addition to the formal names of the person commemorated, nicknames or other names by which the person was familiarly known may be included as part of the person's name within brackets or inverted commas (Subject restrictions at e i)
- iv. Inscription must be incised or in relief & may be uncoloured, grey or black. Plastic, lead or other inserted lettering is not permitted.
- v. Hand crafted letter cutting is permitted but not cursive script (that is script which gives the appearance of having been written in running hand).
- vi. Additional inscriptions which comply as above & are consistent with the style/language of the original may be authorised by the minister following further burials in a grave or interment of further cremated remains.

**f. Work to existing monuments etc.**

- i. The owner of a monument or ledger which is less than 50 years old may carry out works of repair to it (including renewing lettering) with a faculty provided it was lawfully introduced into the churchyard & the minister authorises the repairs before they are carried out.
- ii. Repairs which would result in the monument or ledger stone ceasing to comply with Regulations will not be authorised.
- iii. The owner of a monument or ledger stone which is less than 50 years old may, if authorised to do so by the minister, remove it from the churchyard for not more than 3 months for the addition of an inscription as at (e vi) or carrying out authorised repairs as at (f i)
- iv. A monument or ledger stone which is more than 50 years old must not be removed from the churchyard without the authority of a faculty.

**4. Miscellaneous:**

- a. Individual gardens, including the planting of shrubs are not permitted, but the minister may authorise the planting of a small number of bulbs.
- b. Plastic flowers & plastic wreaths are not permitted; except that wreath & other arrangements of artificial poppies may be introduced to commemorate those who have died in the service of their country in the time of war or other conflict.
- c. Cut flowers & silk flowers may be left at the place of burial or interment but must be removed once they are decaying or have become faded.
- d. With the permission of the minister, up to 3 toys or similar objects may be left at the place of burial or interment for a period of 12 months from the date of burial or interment but must be removed at the end of that period.
- e. The minister, or person acting on his or her behalf, may remove any objects which are not, or have ceased to be authorised or which have not been authorised by faculty.

The above is a précis of the actual Churchyard Regulations 2016 set by the Diocese of Oxford