



PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF CROSSLACON PARISH

CHURCHYARD POLICY

Burials

People living in Crosslacon parish have a right of burial if the churchyard has space and is not closed. Others may be buried with the permission of the Vicar and PCC. There is no right of burial in a particular part of the churchyard.

Churchyard burials are reserved for people, and no animals may be buried there. The allocation and reservation of grave spaces does not affect the ownership of the churchyard, which always remains the legal property of the church.

The PCC of Crosslacon Parish has taken the decision not to accept any Faculties for new grave spaces.

The churchyard at St John's, Cleator Moor is now closed. However, we will accept applications for ashes to be interred in the grave of a family member. Anyone interested in this should contact the Vicar.

At St Leonard's, Cleator, preference is given to people who either live in the community of Cleator Moor or have strong connections with Crosslacon Parish.

At St Michael's, Arlecdon, graves are provided on a first come, first served basis, and are reserved for those living in Arlecdon, Rowrah, and Asby.

At St Paul's, Frizington, preference is given to people who either live in the community of Frizington or have strong connections with Crosslacon Parish.

Memorials

Anyone wishing to erect a memorial must get a Faculty. It is at the Vicar's discretion to give permission for the more usual types of memorials, as described in the Diocese's Churchyard Regulations (www.carlisediocese.org.uk/diocesan-advisory-council/churchyards/). If the request falls outside these limits, or there is any doubt, it will be referred to the Chancellor of the Diocese.

All memorials must be appropriate to a Christian churchyard, harmonise with the character of the church and the adjoining memorials, and remain in good condition. They are both private and public monuments intended to be read now and in future. Inscriptions can be loving and personal but also reverent and in keeping with the Christian faith. Pet names and colloquialisms are inappropriate, being difficult to understand now and in the future.

Memorials remain the property and responsibility of the heir(s) of the person commemorated. They should not be erected until 6 months after the burial to ensure stable ground for the foundations. (In some places, because of ground conditions, it may need to be longer.)

Size, shape and wording, images etc.

These are governed by the Diocese's Churchyard Regulations. Photographs, etched images, portraits, or pictures of objects or motifs in porcelain or plastic are not permitted as they tend to weather and decay more quickly than traditional engraved stones. 'Mass-produced' memorials of 'unusual' shape such as hearts or teddy bears are not permitted because they can dominate the surrounding area and overwhelm the character of adjoining memorials.

Materials and finish

These are also covered by the Regulations. In Cumbria most of our churches and the older memorials around them are made of local stones and slates, and these traditional materials are a key part of their treasured character. Imported stones and stones with mirror polishes can undermine this character and detract from the appearance of the church and churchyard. There are also growing concerns about the carbon footprint of stones imported from the far side of the world and worries about working conditions in quarries there.

Flowers

Because they become bedraggled, artificial flowers are not permitted, except Christmas wreaths and poppies at Remembrance, which should be removed afterwards. Glass vases are discouraged as they can break and cause injuries. It may be possible to plant bulbs but not larger plants like trees or shrubs as their roots can undermine the memorials and they can outgrow the available space. Dead flowers should be removed, and no toys, photos, or other such items should be left by the grave where the weather ruins them, and they become upsettingly unsightly.

Cremated remains

Most of the churches in the parish have a Garden of Remembrance or an area designated for the burial of cremated remains, but St John's churchyard is now closed. Cremated remains can be interred in the grave of a relative with permission from the Vicar, PCC, and other family

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members. Normally, cremated remains are buried without a container – they are poured into the ground. At the discretion of the Vicar, a container made of biodegradable material may be used.

In our Gardens of Remembrance, no individual markers are allowed; instead, names are recorded in the Church's Burial Register, Book of Remembrance, or on a single communal memorial stone.

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