

DODDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Guidance notes on graves and memorials

These guidance notes will help you to understand the choices that you have when selecting a grave in our Benwick Road cemetery. Graves are located in cemetery sections according to their type. The whole of the cemetery is unconsecrated.

Buying a Grave

When buying a grave it is important that you understand what it is that you are actually purchasing. You are not purchasing any land and no ownership of land is transferred to you. What you will be purchasing are the **Exclusive Rights of Burial** for a grave for an agreed period of time. These Rights will be assigned to you by a Deed of Grant which is a legal document.

The Deed grants you the right to:

- be buried in a designated grave if space is available (includes cremated remains);
- authorise further burials in the grave where space is available, or for the interment of cremated remains;
- apply for a permit to place an inscribed memorial on the grave or give permission for an additional inscription to be added.

By law, a purchased grave may only be opened for the burial of the Deed owner or for the burial of another person with the written permission of the Deed holder. The Deed must be transferred by legal process should somebody else wish to arrange a further burial in the grave. You should keep your Deed safe as it forms part of your estate.

Types of Grave

Lawn Grave

Up to two coffins can be buried in a lawn grave subject to space and ground conditions. Cremation urns may also be buried in a lawn grave, but you should be aware that once a cremation urn is buried in a lawn grave no further coffins may be buried there as the grave digging would disturb the cremation remains.

No area in the cemetery has been specifically designated for children's graves and they will therefore be accommodated in the general lawn area.

Please note that all new graves are subject to soil consolidation where the grave appears to sink. This is a natural process and the Parish Council will maintain grave levels by topping up soil levels.

Cremation Graves

These plots are smaller than the lawn graves and are for cremated remains only.

Memorials

You can apply for a permit to place a memorial on a lawn or cremation space. No kerbs, fences or surrounds are permitted on any grave space, and they will be removed without further notice as will any free standing ornaments or container, silk/plastic flowers, toys, or windmills. No trees, shrubs or flowers may be planted on the grave. The provision of any artificial or natural particles of stone or slate will not be permitted on any part of the lawn section.

Christmas wreaths may be laid on a grave but must be removed by the following 15th March.

All memorials remain the responsibility of the grave owner and must be maintained in good order. Doddington Parish Council will maintain the lawn area.

We only allow masons who work to industry standard and are registered with either the National Association of Memorial Masons (NAMM) or the British Register of Accredited Memorial Masons (BRAMM) to work in our cemetery.

Please note that no work can be carried out on a memorial without:

- The authority of the person owning the Exclusive Right of Burial to the grave
- Your memorial mason submitting an application form and fee to the Council
- The Council issuing a permit

The Cemetery Regulations give an indication on sizes and types of memorials that are acceptable for placing on graves.

As the memorial concrete foundation channel or cremation concrete slabs are already in place, a permanent memorial may be erected at any time by the owner of the Deed Grant.

Any memorial installed in our cemetery will be tested on a routine basis to ensure that it is safe and can withstand a reasonable pressure without falling over. Where an inspection reveals a memorial to be unsafe, we are legally required to make safe any hazard. Please note that we will not undertake any repairs, but it could involve lying flat the headstone. We will advise the grave owner, at their last known address, of action that we have taken.

Further advice is available from:

Clerk to the Doddington Parish Council – Roger Wilkin

Email: clerk@doddingtonparishcouncil.gov.uk .

Telephone: 01354 680892 or 07714421087