

Parish of St Mary Buckland

Rector: The Reverend Anna Moore
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NOTICE TO THOSE TENDING GRAVES AND MEMORIAL PLAQUES - PLEASE READ THE LETTER BELOW

Dear Tenders of Graves & Memorial Plaques

15th October 2020

MANAGEMENT OF ST MARY'S CHURCHYARD.

Due to the growing number of plants, ornaments and pebbles being placed against memorial plaques and on graves, we have had to review our policy in order to adhere to the Diocesan Regulations for Churchyards. We are fortunate to be one of the graveyards still open for burial and cremations.

The Regulations state that:

A memorial should be in harmony with those around it, and with the churchyard as a whole; and the appearance of the churchyard should harmonise with that of the surrounding area. A memorial should not stick out. The churchyard will last for many years to come; and its character depends on that of all the memorials within it. There is a distinction between private grief and public remembrance. No single memorial can be allowed to spoil that general appearance, nor can the amount of private grief currently felt determine in any absolute way the form and content of what is to constitute a public memorial.

Application to Buckland churchyard

To meet those regulations and to make our grass cutting and general maintenance of the churchyard easier, we are adopting the following guidelines. Overall we wish to simplify the churchyard's appearance, have only cut flowers or potted flowers on graves and plaques, reduce the number and size of vases around a single grave or plaque and remove any ornaments, pebbles, artificial flowers, trees/shrubs, plants and the like which are not considered to be in harmony.

- 1 Existing graves should also comply with no unfixed surrounds, rails or chains etc. The top of graves should be flat and grassed over. Nothing is to be planted in the ground.
- 2 New graves can have headstones or crosses but the grave itself to be flat and grassed. No kerbs/rails/chains will be permitted.
- 3 The display of cut or potted flowers to continue as a traditional way of showing affection and remembrance for the deceased; those flowers to be removed when dead by those who place them there. If not removed, we may do so.
- 4 Flowers to be in simple small vases or flower pots which are to be no more than 6in square or diameter and 6in tall. Our preference is for either a headstone with integral provision for a small vase for flowers or a buried memorial vase and lid. The vases should be placed immediately adjoining the headstone or plaque. Only ONE vase/flower pot per grave/ashes plaque is permitted



St Mary's is a Church of England parish in the Croydon Episcopal Area of the Diocese of Southwark



5 Artificial flowers are not permitted nor is the planting of flowers, bulbs, trees or shrubs.

We ask therefore that all plots conform to the regulations and application of them. Please can all additional and non-compliant pots/pebbles/vases/planted trees and shrubs be collected by 15th November this year; after this date, they will be removed and placed by the main gate for collection; if not collected they will in time be disposed of.

As part of this exercise we will also check against records to ensure we have the authorized plaques in situ.

Future method of application for approval

Approval should be sought by filling the appropriate form (including dimensions, design, materials, inscriptions etc.), and giving or sending it to the incumbent. This procedure also applies where an alteration is to be made to an existing memorial (for example, to add a further inscription following a second burial)

Where a memorial is erected without being approved either by the incumbent or the Chancellor (or with the approval of the incumbent in a case which falls outside the relevant Regulations), the Chancellor is able to order it to be removed - at the expense of whoever erected it. This applies also where approval is given for a particular memorial, but a different one is erected without further approval.

The Archdeacons will monitor the way in which these arrangements work in practice.

If you would like further information, please visit the Southwark Diocesan website

<https://southwark.anglican.org/about-us/what/caring-for-our-churches/guidance/churchyard-memorials>

If you have any queries or questions, please contact Revd. Anna or the churchwardens.

Thank you for your kind co-operation in this sensitive matter.

Kind Regards



Revd Anna Moore

Rector

Liz Vahey

Churchwarden

David Sayce

Churchwarden