

All Saints' Church, Steep - Churchyard Policy

This is a summary of the Diocesan Regulations governing churchyards and churchyard memorials with which Steep Church has to comply. Their objective is to support the maintenance and conservation of the churchyard in order to provide an harmonious and well kept appearance and the PCC would very much appreciate your co-operation.

Headstones and Inscriptions

- Permission is required before any headstone can be erected and it should not be erected within six months of a burial.
- Full details of both a headstone and its inscription should be submitted by the mason to the vicar for approval. Local funeral directors are aware of what is generally acceptable.
- Inscriptions should be simple and reverent and appropriate to the churchyard. The dates of birth and death or the lifespan with the date of death should be stated. Pet or nick names should be avoided. Inscriptions should be incised into the stone or carved in relief.
- Headstones may be of natural stone, (but not of black, white nor other coloured marble), granite or slate and should not be finished with a polished or reflecting surface.
- The dimensions shall not be greater or less than:
Max. 1200mm x 900mm x 150mm (4' x 3' x 6")
Min. 750mm x 500mm x 50mm (2' 6" x 1' 8" x 2", except slate which may be 1½")
- Headstones in the shape of vases, books, images or statues may not be used.
- No kerbs, railings, edging, chippings or slate surfaces are allowed. Neither are photographs or portraits.
- Grave mounds should be levelled after settling and the excess earth removed and placed in the south east corner of the churchyard extension.

The Sward

- Bulbs may be planted in the soil of any grave.
- Plants and cut flowers may be placed in a sunken container (the top of the container level with the ground surface).
- Wreaths and cut flowers may be laid on any grave or set in containers as above and should be disposed of when withered. Cellophane or paper wrappers should be removed before the flowers are placed on a grave.
- No artificial flowers, toys, models, trinkets or other objects (including pots, unless sunk into the ground) may be placed on any grave. But Remembrance Day poppies or wreaths and Christmas wreaths may be placed on the site for 1 month.

Memorials for Ashes

- Plaques placed over the site of cremated remains come under the same procedures and regulations as those outlined for memorials above.
- Such sites may be marked by an inscribed horizontal stone not exceeding 14" x 18"
- In order to facilitate grass cutting no objects, including flower pots, are allowed.