

Chancellor's Regulations Areas for Cremated Remains

Book 3



Diocesan Advisory Committee for the Care of Churches

2019

CHANCELLOR'S REGULATIONS
Areas for Cremated Remains

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Areas for Cremated Remains

1 General

1 The legal right to burial in the churchyard includes the burial of cremated remains, which should be interred or deposited, in consecrated ground (Canon B38 4b).
[See also DAC booklet No 1)

2 Need for a Policy

2 Now that the burial of cremated remains is becoming so much the norm, it is important, if the Church is to offer the best pastoral care of the bereaved and also to make the best use in every sense of its burial grounds, that there is a properly thought out policy.

3 In order to control that policy the Church, when it desires to set aside an area for the interment of cremated remains, or to extend an existing area, must obtain a **faculty**.

4 The faculty will authorise the reservation of an area for the burial of cremated remains or an extension of an existing area. Where such an area is set aside no other form of burial may take place in that area.

5 It is important to realise that no cremated remains shall be interred save in:

- a) An area so set aside
- b) An existing family grave
- c) A reserved or permitted gravespace, with headstone, at the discretion of the Incumbent

6 Particular attention must be paid to the impact of the design of the area on the existing churchyard and church.

3 Setting Aside an Area

7 The ways of setting aside an area for the burial of cremated remains will vary from churchyard to churchyard and may be particularly influenced by the volume of burials which can be expected.

8 The specific area should be laid out in a formal or informal pattern along the following lines:

- i) Taking into consideration the natural colours and existing features of the churchyard
- ii) Giving a clear definition and demarcation of the area set aside (which may be by paths, flower beds, dwarf hedges, kerbs, corner markers) which generally should be unobtrusive enough to merge more or less imperceptibly into the rest of the area.

9 Cremated remains should be reverently poured into a specially prepared hole in the ground between 450mm (18") and 600mm (24") deep. The scattering or strewing of cremated remains **is not permitted**. If they are interred in a container, it must be of perishable material, preferably wood.

10 It is **strongly recommended** that there be **no visible markings** on individual spaces but plaques may be allowed in cremated remains areas strictly subject to the following provisions:

- i) Any parish wishing to have plaques in a cremated remains area shall first put in a request for advice to the DAC and a member of the DAC will visit the parish to discuss the proposals and give advice.
- ii) Plaques shall be of uniform size of 305mm (12") x 305mm (12") x 51mm (2") with tight control over planning the location of plaques.
- iii) The plaque shall be of natural stone/slate carefully chosen and in harmony with the church building. The stone, once chosen, shall apply to all future memorials. A hole should not be cut into the plaque in order to take a flower receptacle.
- iv) Inscriptions shall be simple and reverent. Great care should be taken not to permit the use of over-familiar terms.
- v) Inscriptions should be incised, or in relief, and may be in black, white or grey. Any other coloured lettering must not be used. No other symbols are allowed on the plaque.
- vi) The type of inscriptive lettering once chosen shall apply to all future plaques.
- vii) Memorials shall be set slightly below the level of the ground so that a mower can pass over them.

11 Cremated remains areas must be kept neat and tidy and mown and cleared regularly, dead flowers removed and holly wreaths cleared within two months.

12 If cremated remains are interred in an **existing** grave, a separate gravestone or memorial is not permitted, though an inscription may be added to an existing gravestone.

4 The Faculty

13 The church needs to petition the Chancellor for a **faculty** for the setting aside of a designated area for the burial of cremated remains.

14 Included with the Petition for Faculty must be:

- i) The PCC resolution signed by the Chair or Secretary
- ii) A copy of the public notice on display
- iii) A scaled plan of the churchyard showing the area to be set aside and how it is marked out and delineated. The plan must show the proposed area, its position in the churchyard in relation to the church and details of trees, walls, paths and other adjacent features.
- iv) A further scaled plan of the actual area must be submitted and upon this the position of each interment space must be accurately marked. The plan shall be for the sole use of the Incumbent and PCC.
- v) A central stone or sign bearing the words 'Garden of Remembrance' should be provided. Details of the design, inscription, style of lettering, size, type, colour and finish should be included. The scaled plan at iii) above should show the position of the sign.
- vi) If flower receptacles are required, their design together with details of size, material, colour and finish should be stipulated. Their proposed position should be marked on the scaled plan.

- vii) Details of any proposed churchyard seating or benches should be provided along with information on security fixing and foundation. The plan at iii) above should also be marked to show the proposed position of the bench.
- viii) A book of remembrance should be kept within the church to record and commemorate interments and each interment recorded without delay. The book should be secured in a glass topped display case and full details must be given with the petition.
- ix) Each church shall keep a separate register to record the interment of cremated remains. Confirmation of this is required on the petition.

15 A church is at liberty to apply for a faculty to **continue a pre-existing practice** (which may include an area with a memorial wall, memorial plaques, flower receptacles etc). Such an application would be considered upon its individual merit.

6 Further Advice or Clarification

16 Advice on the setting and layout of an area for cremated remains or assistance with these regulations can be obtained by contacting the following:

Mr F J R Stephenson
 DAC Landscape, Trees and Planting Adviser
 15 Dakota Road
 Newton Park
 Newton
 NG13 8ZY
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