

**THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST. MARY'S
CHURCH, AMBLESIDE**



At this sad and difficult time, we hope that this leaflet will answer some of your questions clearly. We are honoured to be involved. We hope that all we do will help you to celebrate the life of the person who has died, will allow you to express your sadness and loss and will encourage you in the hope of the resurrection.

Churchyards are a valuable heritage and reflect the sure and certain hope that those buried therein await the return of Jesus Christ and the life that is to come. Because churchyards are consecrated they fall under the jurisdiction of the Bishop, exercised through the Chancellor of the Diocese who is the ecclesiastical Judge in the Diocese and ultimately responsible for decisions affecting churchyards.

The Chancellor has issued Churchyard Regulations which can be seen at the Diocesan website [www.carlisle-diocese.org.uk] to ensure that churchyards are kept in decent order so as to show respect for those who have died and so far as is possible to comfort those whose loved ones are buried there.

This short document attempts to assist in the understanding of such regulations.



Who can be buried here

Parishioners [including all those on the Church Electoral Roll] and others who die in the parish, have a legal right of burial in the churchyard if there is still space available and if the churchyard has not been closed by Order in Council. But permission for others to be buried may be granted by the Incumbent.

There is no right to burial in any particular part of the churchyard and the Incumbent is responsible for deciding where in the churchyard burials will take place.

The construction of a brick-lined vault, bricked grave or a mausoleum in a churchyard requires the authority of a faculty which will be granted only if there are exceptional reasons why this should be permitted.

Whenever a deceased person is buried [or his cremated remain interred] in consecrated ground, it is assumed that the place of burial is intended to be the final resting place of that person.



Fees

Fees are set annually by the Church of England. You can find a summary of this year's fees on our website at <https://stmarysambleside.org.uk/church-hire/funerals/>

Memorials

Any memorial introduced into a churchyard must be permitted by the Chancellor or, in certain cases, the Incumbent. No memorial should be ordered or purchased until permission has been granted.



You should be aware that there are detailed provisions as to the size, materials, position, appearance and inscriptions on memorials.

Burial of cremated remains / Garden of Remembrance

As well as space for burials, we also have a Garden of Remembrance where cremated remains can be buried after a cremation. We have a stone on which the names of all those buried in the Garden are inscribed. The burial of cremated remains can take place at any mutually convenient time.

Alternatives

While some people value the Churchyard Regulations as preserving the special character, peace and dignity of a churchyard, others may find them too restrictive. If you feel that you cannot in honesty abide by them, you may need to consider a burial in the local authority cemetery.

A prayer

Heavenly Father,
We thank you for all those whom we love but see no longer.
As we remember N in this place,
Hold before us our beginning and our ending,
The dust from which we come,
And the death to which we move,
With a firm hope in your eternal love and purposes for us,
In Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen

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