

NESTON CHURCHYARD

CARE AND MANAGEMENT

Neston Churchyard is an Award Winning "Living Churchyard". This means that as well as providing a resting place for loved ones, the churchyard is managed to encourage native flora and fauna.

Christians believe that death is not the end, but visiting the grave is a very important part of the grieving process; we aim to provide an appropriate setting for reflection in this attractive rural environment.

The regulations concerning burial and the design of monuments at Neston are contained in a separate "Internment and Memorials" document. You are encouraged to read these to understand the legalities of burial in this churchyard.

The ownership of the land and the ultimate responsibility for maintenance remains with the Church and its officers, so in order to preserve the dignity of the churchyard and to ease the task of maintaining it, these Management Regulations have been adopted by the Parochial Church Council (PCC) of this Parish.

We appreciate that many people like to assist us by keeping their loved one's plot in good condition, and simply ask for your co-operation in the following:

1. Churchyard Surface The surface of the churchyard shall be kept level as far as possible and free of grave mounds in order that lawnmowers may easily pass over and between graves. The PCC may level any inappropriate mound at its discretion 12 months after the latest internment in the grave. It is not permitted to remove the turf to create a small garden on grave spaces.

2. Permanent Planting Spring bulbs and small annual plants may be planted within a grave plot, but need to be kept tidy. Plants and flowers may be placed in a removable container (preferably of metal) sunk into the ground. Shrubs and trees may **not** be planted in the churchyard without the express written permission of the PCC. Where shrubs have been planted in existing grave plots, please keep these cut right back, within the level of headstones and the outline of the plot.

3. Flowers Wreaths or cut flowers may be laid on any grave or in an acceptable vase (see section 4 below); but please remove them when they are withered. We do not encourage the placing of artificial flowers, as these are not in keeping with the rural surroundings.

4. Vases and memorabilia Only one stone container/flower pot may be kept on the grave or ashes plot, providing that it is made from similar materials to the headstone/ashes stone. A metal, stone or earthenware vase or flowerpot may be placed on a grave space preferably sunk into the ground so that it is virtually invisible. Please do not place other memorabilia or adornments on the grave.

5. Safety No glass or china containers are to be used and will be removed.

Where graves do not appear to have been tended, or the churchyard regulations have been contravened the PCC may authorise appropriate action.

Signed on behalf of the Parochial Church Council:

Signed Rev Dr Andrew Johnson, Team Rector Dated.....