

INTERMENT AND MEMORIAL REGULATIONS FOR THE PARISH CHURCHYARD AT ST PHILIP & ST JAMES NESTON

Team Rector: Revd Dr Andrew R Johnson

INTRODUCTION

This document sets out the legal regulations concerning burials. This includes the design and size of headstones and of other memorials and permitted grave adornments in Neston Churchyard.

Guidelines for the maintenance and upkeep of the churchyard and individual grave spaces are to be found in a separate "Churchyard Management" document, copies of which are available in the church vestibule and are on display on the church notice board.

Please note that no right of ownership is conferred by either the reservation of or burial in a grave space, the burial of ashes or the erection of a memorial: the ownership of the land and the ultimate responsibility for the churchyard remains with the Church and its officers. The erection of a memorial is a privilege, not a right, authority for which is delegated to the local clergy.

WHO MAY BE BURIED IN NESTON CHURCHYARD?

Permission for burial or interment of ashes may be granted:

- For persons registered as living in the ecclesiastical parish at the time of death
- For those cases approved by the clergy after consultation with the Neston Churchwardens, having regard to the deceased's association with Neston Church; such approval not to be given unless that association has been close and sustained for some period within the deceased's lifetime.

MONUMENTS (HEADSTONES)

Permission is legally required from the clergy to approve the design of new monuments. This is done in consultation with your stonemason who will have the appropriate paperwork. Nothing shall be erected or placed in the churchyard until such proposals have received the written consent of the clergy or until further permission from the church authorities ('a faculty') has been received

The clergy may allow a monument to be erected in the churchyard without a faculty, provided appropriate monuments adhere to the following criteria

- The monument is made of the following material
 - English limestone or pennant stone
 - Unpolished grey granite
 - Nabresina (Roman Stone)
 - English Oak
- The monument consists of
 - a headstone not more than 4' high
 - a cross not more than 4' 6" high
 - an 'ashes plot' marker stone no more than 18 inches square

No identification of the maker shall appear, other than the name of the craftsperson or designer in letters not more than half an inch high.

- The following monuments or additions are **not allowed**:
 - monuments depicting books or images
 - statues
 - chippings or gravel, with or without kerbs
 - railings or chains to enclose the grave space
 - any other memorabilia, such as, but not limited to, solar lights, photographs, toys, windmills, animals etc.

INSTALLATION OF MONUMENTS

- Headstones shall be spaced at not less than two feet apart.
- For ground maintenance purposes the base upon which any headstone or other memorial is fixed shall be sunk into the ground, for the purpose of stability and avoidance of damage by maintenance equipment.
- It is the responsibility of those commissioning the monument to ensure that this has been achieved by the stonemason, and no responsibility can be accepted by the PCC for damage caused by grounds maintenance equipment if bases or ashes stones are not sufficiently spaced or recessed below the surrounding grass level.

GRAVE MOUNDS

- The surface of the churchyard shall be kept level as far as possible and free from grave mounds in order that lawnmowers may be easily run over and between graves.
- It is not permitted to remove the turf to create a small garden on grave spaces.

EXTENT AND APPLICATION

- These Rules shall take effect subject always to any Diocesan Faculties Orders or Regulations.
- These current Rules supersede all previous rules.
- Where these Rules appear to have been contravened the Parochial Church Council will always attempt to contact relatives to request the situation be rectified before taking any further action.

Signed on behalf of the Parochial Church Council:

Churchwardens

Team Vicar

Team Rector

Dated: May 2012