

LANLIVERY PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
POLICY ON CHURCHYARD MONUMENTS

The PCC's policy on churchyard monuments was determined at a PCC meeting in July 2010. It consists of the Diocesan *Churchyard regulations* amplified in the areas where the PCC has discretion, as follows (section numbers refer to the relevant section of the *Churchyard regulations*):

Q.100. The PCC will not permit the use of kerbs, railings chains, chippings or glass shades.

Q.103. References to the bereaved family in the inscription are restricted to parent/child or spouse relationships, except where in particular circumstances the priest will exercise his/her discretion.

Q.105. Strewing of ashes will be permitted. An area of grass may be cleared for this purpose and later resown. It should be made clear to the bereaved that strewing will be on common ground and cannot guarantee a unique space. If a unique space is desired in the churchyard, then the appropriate alternative is burial of ashes.

The *Churchyard regulations* are attached.

DIOCESAN REGULATIONS CONCERNING MEMORIALS AND HEADSTONES IN CHURCHYARDS AND CONSECRATED BURIAL GROUNDS

General

Q.89 The purpose of these regulations is to preserve suitable and harmonious surroundings for our parish churches and maintain the dignity of our burial grounds.

Q.90 The right of a parishioner in a churchyard (not closed by Order in Council) is confined to that of interment. The erection of a memorial over a grave, which may be in the form of a cross, a headstone, a ledger stone, a book on a tick rest or some other seemly memorial, remains a privilege, and strictly speaking no memorial may be erected in a churchyard without the authority of the Chancellor of the Diocese in the form of a faculty.

Q.91 In practice the Chancellor has delegated this authority:-

(a) to the Parish Priest, who may normally grant permission for the erection of a memorial which conforms to these regulations; and

(b) to the Archdeacon, who (with the consent of the Parish Priest) may permit an individually designed monument which is of artistic merit. This power is given to encourage variety and the improvement of aesthetic standards.

Q.92 Memorials which do not conform to these regulations, or cannot be permitted by the Archdeacon under his delegated power, must be specifically authorised by faculty.

Q.93 All work carried out shall also conform to the Code of Working Practice of the National Association of Memorial Masons. A minimum period of six months should elapse between the burial of a person to be commemorated and the erection of a memorial. This does not apply to cremated remains.

Q.94 Parish Priests and PCCs may prepare regulations for their churchyards which are complementary to, but not less stringent than, these regulations. Such regulations must be approved by the Archdeacon before issue.

Q.95 No work shall be executed in the churchyard, nor memorials erected, without the written consent of the Parish Priest, or (where necessary) by faculty. Applications should be made in the first instance to the Parish Priest on the standard application form (annex QC). This will include a full description of what is proposed, including the design of the monument, the measurements, materials, inscriptions and other relevant particulars. Forms that are not properly completed may be returned, causing delay. If a faculty is required, a petition must be submitted to the Diocesan Advisory Committee on the appropriate form, which is obtainable from the Diocesan Advisory Committee, Diocesan House, Kenwyn, Truro TR1 1JQ (01872 274351).

Q.96 Advice on the procedure to be adopted to obtain a faculty can be obtained from the Registrar of the Diocese, Truro Diocesan Registry, Michelmores, Woodwater House, Pynes Hill, Exeter, EX2 5WR

Q.97 Dimensions

- (a) Headstones;
Height: not more than 1200mm (4'0") nor less than 750mm (2'6") measured from the surface of the ground
Width: not more than 900mm (3'0") nor less than 500mm (1'8")

Thickness: not more than 150mm (6") nor less than 75mm (3") except in the case of slate memorials which may be thinner but no less than 38mm (1½").

- (b) Headstones for infant burials:
Height: not less than 600mm (2'0")
Width: not less than 375mm (1'3")
Thickness: not less than 50mm (2")
- (c) Cross and base memorials:
Height: not more than 1 metre 525mm (5'0") nor less than 900mm (3'0") high measured from the surface of the ground.
Width: not more than 900mm (3'0") nor less than 600mm (2'0")
Thickness: not more than 380mm (1'3") nor less than 150mm (6")
- (d) Ledger stones:
Not more than 2100mm (7'0") by 900mm (3'0")
Not less than 1200mm (4'0") by 600mm (2'0")

These measurements are not intended to define standard proportions of memorials which may be of any dimensions within the given maximum and minimum. (The metric equivalents given above are slightly less than the imperial dimensions but are recommended for use by the National Association of Memorial Masons).

(e) Base and Foundation Slab

Headstones may be of three types:

- (1) So shaped that they can be inserted directly into the ground at sufficient depth to ensure stability;
- (2) On an integral base not more than 900mm (3'0") wide, nor projecting more than 100mm (4") in any direction, nor more than 225mm (9") high
- (3) On a vase base not more than 900mm (3'0") wide, nor projecting more than 100mm (4") on either side, nor projecting more than 180mm (7") in front of the headstone, no more than 100mm (4") high. The base must be no more than 375mm (1'3") overall, front to back.

It should be noted that since the base may not be more than 900mm (3'0") wide, the use of a headstone more than 700mm (2'4") wide will reduce the extent to which the base may project on either side. Due regard should be paid to the nature of the ground and to settlement.

Ledger stones must be laid flush with the ground.

Q.98 Materials. Memorials must be of approved natural stone or of hardwood. The following stone is approved in the Diocese, and examples are deposited at Diocesan House:

- (a) Granite:
Preferred: Silver grey, quarried in Cornwall and Devon.
Permitted: Tarn (France), Karin (Finland), Marlow (Portugal).
- (b) Slate:
Cornish, Welsh Blue and Grey, Lakeland Green and Grey.

(c) No other materials are permitted. In particular blue, red, black and dark grey granites, white marble, synthetic stone and plastic are not permitted.

Q.99 **Sculpture.** Sculpture or statuary are not discouraged but must be authorised by faculty.

Q.100 **Designs.** Individuality and excellence of design of memorials is encouraged. Headstones need not be restricted to a rectangular shape. For example, curved tops are preferable to straight-edged ones. However, memorials in the shape of a heart are not permitted other than by faculty. A design carved into the face of the stone or hardwood is permissible, provided that it is of high quality, relevant and reverent. Photographs or porcelain or other portraits or pictures are not permitted. Kerbs, railings, chains, chippings or glass shades are not permitted unless allowed by regulations issued by the Parish Priest and PCC. A cross should be individually designed if a permanent memorial in this form is desired. A book or Bible design is acceptable but should be mounted upon a tick-rest or a second base, and the overall height may be of less than 750mm (2'6"). Applicants who want an individually designed headstone may wish to read the booklet 'Memorials by Artists,' which can be consulted at Diocesan House.

Q.101 **Finish.** A smooth finish is preferred, which shall not be more polished than a non-reflective or honed finish. A rough finish is acceptable. Where desired, the inscribed face but no other part of the stone may be polished to a reflective finish.

Q.102 **Commonwealth War Graves.** Gravestones provided by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission are of distinctive design and dimensions to indicate their special nature. The standard dimensions are 2'8" high and 1'3" wide, and the standards are permitted without the need for a faculty, although not conforming to the standard above.

Q.103 **Epitaphs**

(a) Inscriptions must be reverent and may include literary quotations. Inscriptions must be incised in the surface or carved in relief, and may be painted in black, white, silver or gold leaf. Lead lettering may be used. Plastic or other inlaid lettering is not permitted.

(b) Additions may be made to an inscription at a later date following a subsequent interment in the same grave or for another suitable reason. However, any such addition must be separately approved by the Parish Priest, and the lettering, layout and wording must be consistent with the original inscription. Another suitable reason will include the addition of a relative of the person or persons interred whose remains are not interred in the same grave provided that all parents, siblings and children of the person or persons interred and of the persons being commemorated and any other persons the Parish Priest thinks appropriate, are given in writing.

(c) References to the bereaved family in the inscription should be restricted to parent/child or spouse relationships. The inclusion of siblings' or other relatives' names in addition to those of parents/children of the deceased is not normally permitted. Brothers or sisters may be referred to as the only bereaved, or of course where they are interred in the same grave.

(d) A plaque to be placed on the grave may be allowed instead of or in addition to an inscription under (b) above on the same conditions as an addition to an inscription. The plaque shall comply with regulation Q.105.

Q.104 **Trademarks.** No advertisement or trademark may be inscribed on the face of a gravestone. The mason's name may, however be inscribed at the side or on the reverse in unlead letters, no larger than 13mm (1/2") in height.

Q.105 Commemoration after cremation: Each churchyard has its own policy for the interment of ashes following cremation. The regulations concerning memorial headstones, or tablets are the same as for burials, except that the minimum dimensions will be 250mm (10") by 300mm (12"), 50mm (2") thick in granite and 38mm (1½") in slate. Where a special area has been set aside by faculty for interment of ashes, the rules laid down for interments and appropriate commemoration must be observed.

Q.106 Flowers

- (a) Except where the design of a headstone includes an integral receptacle, plants or cut flowers may be placed in a removable container which must be sunk flush with the ground.
- (b) Where a flower vase is the only memorial it must be no more than 300mm (1'0") high, measured from the surface of the ground, nor more than 300mm (1'0") wide, or more than 250mm (10") front to back, and must be securely fixed to a foundation stone which itself shall be flush with the ground and nor more than 300mm (1'0") in either dimension.
- (c) Wreaths and cut flowers may also be laid on a grave, but must be removed as soon as they have withered. No artificial flowers are allowed except for Remembrance Day poppies and traditional Christmas wreaths, which must be removed after a period of not more than two months.
- (d) Any vase, flowers or wreath not complying with the above rules may be removed by, or with the authority of, the Parish Priest or the churchwardens during a vacancy.