

What about inscriptions?

Choosing this is often the most challenging part of the design. Detailed guidance appears in the Churchyard Handbook, and your priest will also be able to guide you. Names and dates of birth and death are normally included. Any quotation from the Bible or literature needs to be agreed by the priest. The use of nicknames or terms of endearment normally require the authority of a faculty. The lettering should normally be incised and black – again, check with your priest.

What about symbols and decorations?

A symbol from nature or a particular organisation in which you loved one was especially involved may be permitted, but you need to check first.

What about vases and flowers?

A single vase may be incorporated into a base of the headstone and may extend up to 202mm (8ins) in front of the headstone. It should be used for fresh flowers only.

Useful resource

Churchyard Handbook available at:
<https://www.chelmsford.anglican.org/uploads/ac-docs/MONUMENTS-AND-HEADSTONES-IN-CHURCHYARDS-2-22-Revised-Edition.pdf>

A note about caring for the churchyard...

Every parish will have its own policy about what is permitted in a churchyard, but all parishes are required to follow the regulations laid down by the Chancellor of the Diocese. Sometimes, people break the rules and place all kinds of objects on a grave including artificial flowers, ribbons, photographs, toys and other memorabilia. We understand why people want to do this and it may be that there is somewhere at home or in a private garden where special tokens of remembrance may be placed. However, in order for the churchyard to remain a public and welcoming place of peace and beauty for all, we would ask that you not only tend and care for the grave of your loved one, but also kindly respect the guidance both of the Chancellor and of the parish concerned.

If you need to find out details of your local church, go to:



<https://www.achurchnearyou.com/>

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Choosing a headstone or memorial stone....



Some frequently asked questions

(We suggest you put this leaflet in a safe place so that you can refer to it when you need to).

When someone we love has died, we may want to place a memorial where their body or ashes have been laid to rest. This leaflet is designed to help you as you begin to think about what you would like.....

It should be read alongside the Churchyard Handbook (see link below) and in consultation with the priest responsible for the churchyard in which your loved one's remains are buried. This will help to ensure that local guidelines are observed as well as diocesan regulations.

Thank you for taking the time to read this leaflet carefully.

Why are there rules and regulations?

A churchyard is a public space – a place of peace and beauty – and it points those who visit to the Christian belief in death and resurrection. It is also often maintained by volunteers and we want to make their job as easy as possible. The regulations help us to do this.

What permissions do I need and from whom?

Once you have decided what you would like for the headstone or memorial, you will need to complete Form CR1 (if everything you have asked for is clearly within the regulations). If you would like something outside of the regulations, then you will need to apply for a Faculty (fee payable). The memorial mason will be able to supply these forms and guide you, but if you need further advice contact the priest responsible for the churchyard.

It is very important to gain permission before the mason begins work on the memorial.

What material for the stone is allowed?

There are many possibilities, including particular types of limestone, sandstone and grey granite (a detailed list appears in the Churchyard Handbook – including some which are not normally allowed). All stones must be ethically sourced and processed. It is also helpful to check what types of stone have been used already on nearby graves so that your headstone blends in easily.

When can the stone be put in place?

The earliest you may apply for a stone or memorial is six months after the date of the burial or the date of cremation. This is to allow the earth to settle after the burial.

What about size and shape?

- a) **Headstones** must have parallel sides and the top should be straight or curved.

Lawn type memorials:

Height: 1070mm (3ft 6ins) max or 1220mm (4ft) for a monolith type memorial (style installed directly into ground with no plinth).

Width: 760mm (2ft 6ins) max

Depth: 102mm (4ins) max

- b) **Memorials for cremated remains**

Each parish will have its own guidelines about how the name of your loved one may be recorded, so it is best to consult the priest responsible for the churchyard directly.