

## Fordham Churchyard General Guidance Notes for Burials

Firstly, we send our deepest sympathy to you and your family. Jesus said *'Come unto me all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.'* We want to do all we can to help you find your rest in Him at this sad time.

At this time of grieving, the last thing we wish to do is add further to your grief, but we need to advise you of certain rules laid down by the Diocese of Chelmsford regarding the churchyard. The rules are intended to ensure that this consecrated space is a place which reflects dignity and peace for all who visit it.

### Memorials over graves

The wording and decoration allowed on a memorial stone is limited. Permission must be obtained in each case. Specific detail on what is allowed can be found in the Churchyard Handbook (a copy may be obtained from the church office). Your stonemason can direct you in the choosing of a fitting memorial and will assist in the completion of a CR1 form. Until this form is completed and agreed in writing by the Rector, no memorial should be ordered. It may be possible to have a design that falls outside of the guidelines in the Churchyard Handbook however the design would need to be agreed by the Diocese and this would incur an additional cost. Freshly cut flowers may be laid beside the stone, but no artificial flowers or ornaments are permitted. Exceptions to this are a wreath of Poppies on Remembrance Day, a wreath at Christmas and a wreath on the anniversary of the death. Wreaths should be removed after 2 weeks. Any other non-permitted items will be periodically removed. Flowers or shrubs should not be planted in the grave area; however, small spring flowering bulbs may be planted.

### Memorials in the Cremated Remains Area

Ashes may not be scattered but must be interred directly into the ground. Ideally the cremated remains should be interred directly into the ground without any container. If a container is used it must be bio-degradable: for example, wood or cardboard. It must not contain any form of lining which prevents it from being bio-degradable. It should be no larger than 10 inches length by 10 inches width. A slate plaque can be inscribed with the names and dates of the deceased and fixed to the outer face of the oak rail that surrounds the cremated remains area. The ordering of the plaque is arranged through the church office. Freshly cut flowers may be laid, but no artificial flowers or ornaments are permitted. Exceptions to this are a wreath of Poppies on Remembrance Day, a wreath at Christmas and a wreath on the anniversary of the death. Wreaths should be removed after 2 weeks. Any other non-permitted items will be periodically removed

If you have any particular wishes regarding the memorial stone, you are welcome to contact the Rector via the church office to seek advice.

The Rector and PCC of All Saints, Fordham & Eight Ash Green.

January 2023

*The Lord is close to the broken hearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit Psalm 34.18*