

The Four Church Benefice

Graveyard Regulations

Foxton, Shepreth and Thriplow

Our churchyards are a very important part of our village life. They are where we lay our loved ones to rest and they provide a focal point where we can come and remember and give thanks. We all like to remember our loved ones in our own way but this individuality has to be led by the diocesan guidelines, which give personal choice but within clear parameters. The Diocesan guidelines are set out below

It is important to note that regulations in churchyards are very different from those in municipal cemeteries. When someone is buried in a churchyard the relatives do not own the grave. It belongs to the church and the Church Council has the responsibility to ensure that the churchyard is maintained in an appropriate manner in keeping with the diocesan regulations.

Headstones and Memorials

Permission needs to be given by the Rector before **any** memorial may be erected on a grave or in the garden of remembrance. Please contact her before you do anything.

None of the following is allowed on graves or in the garden of remembrance

- A portrait, photograph or other image of an individual
- Any other pictures or imagery except as permitted by the regulations
- Any moulding
- any video or sound recording
- A QR code or other machine-readable label
- Kerbs or other fencing, railings or other demarcation
- Stone or glass chippings
- Memorial plaques or statues
- Artificial flowers except for Remembrance Day poppies and traditional Christmas wreaths, and these shall be removed within two months
- Lighting, whether solar or otherwise
- Trees and shrubs may only be planted on or around a grave with separate Faculty permission.

With the permission of the Minister, up to 3 toys or similar objects may be left at the place of burial or interment of cremated remains of a child for a period of 12 months from the date of burial or interment but must be removed at the end of that period.

After six months a headstone may be erected. The grave should be levelled and laid to grass. No plants should be introduced on the grave. Wreaths and cut flowers should be removed as soon as they appear to be withered.

Vases which are no longer in use should be removed.

The PCC has authority to remove any artificial flowers, or other memorabilia which do not comply with these Regulations and which have not been authorised by Faculty.

A full copy of these regulations can be obtained from the Rector or Churchwardens. They will be happy to answer any questions you have.

Rector: Revd. Angela Melaniphy

Email: rector@thefourchurchbenefice.org

Tel: 01763 208195



St Laurence Church, Foxton Graveyard Regulations

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