



• ST GEORGE'S •

A step closer to God, friends, and real life

ST GEORGE'S CHURCH WILTON



Guidance For Churchyard Interment of Ashes and Care of Memorials

Introduction

The purpose of this leaflet is to give guidance about

- where and how ashes may be interred.
- how to choose and care for a memorial for someone who has died.

This can be a very difficult time, and we would like to help you in any way we can.

If you have any questions or suggestions, please do speak to the Vicar, Revd James Clapham or make them known through the Parish Administrator, who is in the Church Office Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Fridays 10am – 1pm.

In Christian tradition a funeral ends either with the burial of a coffin or interment of ashes. Due to limited space, St George's churchyard is now "closed" for burials, but ashes may still be interred here, under the guidance of the Vicar.

A churchyard is essentially an historical place, the final resting place of many generations of parishioners, and as such it is important to preserve and respect its grounds and monuments, together with the church buildings, around which it has grown up over the centuries.

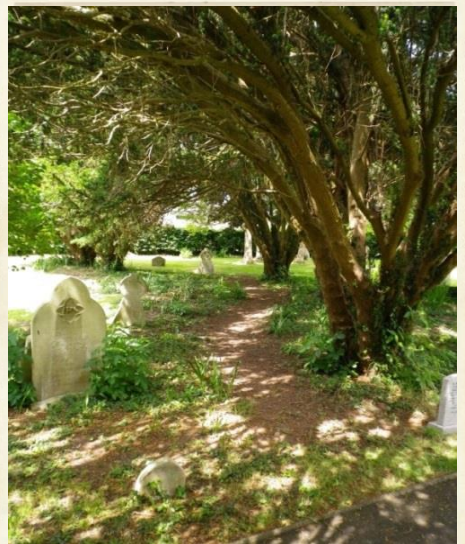
For these reasons, as well as for practical reasons relating to safety and upkeep, and for environmental reasons, certain general regulations for churchyards have been laid down by the Diocese of Bath & Wells. A copy of these regulations is displayed in the church porch, and a copy is also kept in St George's Church Office, together with the more specific management policy for St George's Churchyard, which has been agreed by the Vicar and Parochial Church Council (PCC) in accordance with Diocesan conditions.

The Vicar would refer to these regulations and ask you to consider them carefully when requesting the interment of ashes and planning the memorial you wish to provide and become responsible for.

Responsibility for implementing these regulations may be delegated by the PCC to a person or persons responsible for the day-to-day upkeep of the churchyard.

A summary of the St George's PCC Churchyard regulations is given later in this leaflet. We hope you will find it helpful. Your help in respecting and following these regulations would be greatly appreciated. Most of the work in the churchyard is carried out by volunteers who freely give their time.

Please help to preserve the dignity and simplicity of St George's Churchyard. We hope that you will feel comforted and at peace whenever you visit or think of it.



Interment of ashes & choice and care of memorials

St George's Churchyard is closed for burials, but ashes may be interred here directly into the ground or in a biodegradable container. Ashes may not be scattered. There are 3 specific areas of the churchyard designated for interments (See plan Areas 1, 2 & 3). Each area has a distinct style of memorial suited to its setting. Any existing memorials which do not comply with these regulations cannot be regarded as a precedent.

In addition to these 3 designated areas, small memorial plaques or stones are permitted on top of graves where the cremated remains of a family member are interred subsequent to burials.

Overleaf is a summary of the PCC maintenance regulations. Opposite is a plan of the churchyard showing the location of the 3 areas for interment. The Vicar will guide you as to which area and style of memorial you would prefer.

There is also a Book of Remembrance which is kept open in the church. If you would like to have an inscription here, please speak with the Parish Administrator.



ST GEORGE'S CHURCH
WILTON : SKETCH PLAN

A hand-drawn diagram of a house. The house has a rectangular main body with a chimney on the left side. A curved line extends from the bottom of the house, labeled 'VIRAGE'. A line extends from the top right of the house, labeled 'WATER'.

A simple line drawing of a building's corner. A rectangular sign is attached to the wall, containing the words "SCOUT HUT" in a bold, hand-drawn, sans-serif font. The drawing is done in a sketchy, illustrative style.

A hand-drawn sketch of a building labeled "CHURCH HALL". The drawing is simple, with a rectangular outline and some internal lines suggesting a doorway or corner. The text "CHURCH HALL" is written vertically along one side of the rectangle.

PARK

T
PATH

AREA

A diagram showing a rectangular area. A dashed line runs horizontally across the middle, labeled "PATH". A solid line runs vertically on the right side, labeled "AREA".

AREA 3

BENCH

AREA 3

ALLOTMENTS



Summary of Parochial Church Council's Regulations

1. The surface of the churchyard needs to be kept as level and clear as possible. No gravel, edgings or other markers should be laid round an interment plot. The PCC may level any mound at its discretion at any time more than 12 months after the last interment in that plot.
2. **Area 1-Adjacent to the churchyard path-upright memorial stones:** (*18"x12"x2½", plinth 16"x6"x2½" – plot to be no larger than 16"x16"*) Bulbs or small plants may be planted in the soil within the plot. Plants or cut flowers may be placed in a removable sunken container (not glass); wreaths or bouquets may be laid against the upright memorial stone, but the PCC may remove them when they appear to be withered or dated. **Area 2-On the Western boundary of the churchyard-steel memorial plaques set into the turf:** (*Please ask at St George's Office for details of purchase of these plaques.*) NO plants or flowers to be left here please, except for up to 2 weeks after an interment has taken place. **Area 3-On the Eastern boundary wall-memorial plaques set on wall:** (*Max size of plaque: 15"x7"*). Cut flowers may be put in 6"x6"x6" stone vases on the ground below memorial plaque.
3. The PCC may at its discretion at any time remove and dispose of any artificial flowers or other decorations placed anywhere in the churchyard.
4. In the interest of Health & Safety dogs are only allowed in the churchyard if they are accompanying a visitor and kept on a lead. Please do not allow them to foul in this consecrated area.
5. St George's has a compost area and water behind the East end of the church. Please use these according to the instructions.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP

St George's Church Wilton, Parochial Church Council

We hope you may find the following prayers helpful:

***Most merciful God,
whose wisdom is beyond our understanding,
surround me with your love,
that I may not be overwhelmed by loss,
but have confidence in your goodness,
and strength to meet the days to come.
I ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen***

***Father of all,
by whose mercy and grace your saints remain in everlasting light and
peace;
we remember those whom we love but see no longer;
and we pray that in them your perfect will may be fulfilled;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen***

***Father, I am lost and lonely.
Hold me with your hand
Guide me by your grace
Lift me by your might
Save me by your strength
Enfold me in your love.***

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CONTACTS & INFORMATION

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