

# ST. GILES THE ABBOT, FARNBOROUGH, KENT

## PCC POLICY FOR CHURCHYARD BURIALS - 2006

This Policy has been determined by the Chancellor of the Diocese of Rochester in consultation with the Diocesan Advisory Committee.

St. Giles the Abbot Churchyard is set in beautiful Kent countryside and is part of a historic Church which dates back over 1,000 years. The Churchyard is both something of the past and a modern day facility in regular use for burials, visits and services. The requirements below are designed to maintain and enhance the natural beauty and environment of the area whilst providing clear practical guidance so that the area can be properly maintained. While the desire for people to attend to family graves in individual ways is appreciated, your co-operation is vital if the Churchyard is to be safe, well kept and beautiful like its surrounding environment. It will therefore be necessary to adhere rigidly to the requirements set out below.

The policy now stands irrespective of what may have happened in past years or in other areas of the Churchyard.

*St. Giles Parochial Church Council*

1. **Parishioners** (those living in the ecclesiastical parish and those on the Church's Electoral Roll) have the right of burial in the Churchyard if there is space. The right of burial does **not** imply ownership of the plot. The allocation of grave plots will be strictly sequential.
2. **Treatment of grave area** (the excavated area):
  - (a) Wooden crosses may only be placed on the grave with the written permission of the Rector. These crosses must be removed from the Churchyard when a headstone is erected.
  - (b) As the grave area is eventually to become a lawn, edgings and kerbs and/or chippings are strictly **NOT** permitted. Any edgings that appear will be removed without notice.
  - (c) Cut flowers only may be placed on the grave at the head area in a suitable container (not glass or plastic). Artificial flowers are **not** permitted.
  - (d) When the area of the grave has settled it will be levelled and grassed over.
3. **Memorials.**
  - (a) Headstones are to be Old English style, max. 1.5m x 600 mm (approx. 5'0"x2'0") planted at least 18" inches into the ground (not including the Namm fitting) and shall be only limestone (no Celtic limestone - by limestone we mean light coloured stone), sandstone or Nabrasine. It is our experience that due to the high chalk content in the ground of the Churchyard that the more secure the headstone in the ground the less likelihood there is of the headstone toppling in the future. Any headstone must have the grave number deeply incised on the back. In the established (older) areas of the Churchyard the type of permitted headstone will be at the Rector's written discretion.
  - (b) Headstones should not be erected until at least one year after burial to give time for the ground to settle.
  - (c) Memorials in the shape of crosses, open books and hearts are not permitted nor are figured statues of any size.
  - (d) Human likenesses, photographic representations or similar items are not permitted.
  - (e) Any extraneous additions are **not** permitted (exceptions may be made in the children's area).

*see over page*

**Footnote:**

Churchyard users are requested to remove all remains of wreaths from the graves. All non-degradable rubbish (plastic, polystyrene, oasis, glass etc.) should be removed from the Churchyard or placed in the container provided. Compostable material may be placed beside the container.

The Churchyard is in constant use and the grave area may be subject to temporary disturbance whilst adjacent graves are re-opened.

Anyone seeking advice about these regulations may contact the Parish Office on 01689 853471.

**POLICY FOR BURIALS IN ST. GILES CHURCHYARD**

I have read and agree to abide by the Policy as set out above:

**Name:** .....

**Signature:** .....

**Address:** .....

.....

**Tel. No.** .....

**Name of grave:**

**Date:** .....

**Two copies of this Policy have been sent to you. Please sign, date and return one copy to the Parish Office, St. Giles Centre, Church Road, Farnborough, Kent, BR6 7DB, keeping the other for your reference. Email: parishoffice@stgilespcc.plus.com Tel. 01689 853471.**