

The Parish Church of St Peter & St Paul Water Orton



A Guide for Those Arranging a Burial in Water Orton or the Burial of Cremated Remains

We are fortunate in Water Orton to have a place in which all residents of the parish have the right of burial. The Churchyard at the Church is now available only for burials in existing graves or cremated remains plots. The Old Churchyard and the Garden of Remembrance in Old Church Road will provide burial space for many years to come.

The Church Council is responsible for and meets the costs of the upkeep of both Churchyards and the Garden of Remembrance. The rules which govern this care are set out in the Churchyard Regulations of the Diocese of Birmingham (www.birmingham.anglican.org), which explain what is, and is not, allowed. These were drawn up by The Chancellor, a High Court Judge, and are administered by The Registrar, a local Barrister. The Vicar and Church Council are responsible for ensuring that these are adhered to.

This short guide for next-of-kin and family members, seeks to help you decide on a fitting and permanent memorial to your loved ones. We understand that decisions about these matters are often being made at times of distress and we are concerned to offer help, support and advice.

We trust that this guide will direct you through the regulations and assist you in your choice of an appropriate memorial.

Please contact the Church Administrator if you need any assistance.

Guiding Principles

We seek to maintain the peace and tranquillity of the Churchyards and the Garden of Remembrance.

Who can be buried in Water Orton ?

Anyone who lives or has lived in the parish, whatever their religious beliefs, or who is on the Electoral Roll of Water Orton Church may be buried in the churchyard, or have their ashes interred in the Garden of Remembrance after cremation. Permission for a burial must be sought from the Vicar.

Do you own the plot where your loved one is buried ?

Unlike town cemeteries, in English churchyards neither burial nor a monument give right of ownership to any part of the churchyard. Fees for burial contribute towards the maintenance of the churchyard rather than ownership.

Burials

How do I arrange for a full Burial in Water Orton ?

When arranging a funeral, tell the Funeral Director that you wish for a burial in Water Orton, either in an existing family grave which still has room for another burial, or in a new grave, which will be in the Old Churchyard, Old Church Road.

Monuments and memorials

A headstone may be placed on a grave, after at least six months when the ground has settled. The stonemason of your choice will contact the vicar to seek the necessary permission for a monument to be erected. As headstones last for centuries, there are detailed regulations concerning what monuments can be erected in English churchyards. The relevant ones are summarised below. These regulations are designed to maintain the character and appearance of our churchyard and to allow easy maintenance, particularly so that graves will continue to look their best for years to come.

As the maintenance of a monument remains the responsibility of the relatives or their nominated representative, the regulations ensure

that monuments will last, will be easily maintained and will not be susceptible to vandalism.

What can a Headstone be made of?

Headstones can be of unpolished natural stone. A small wooden cross may be temporarily erected whilst awaiting the arrival of the permanent headstone.

The regulations permit neither monuments of marble or granite nor monuments made of more than one type of stone.

In order to maintain the style and appearance of the churchyard, monuments must be an upright headstone, no larger than 4' high x 2' wide x 4" thick.

What can be written on a Memorial?

Inscriptions should be in words or figures and cut into the stone. They must include the full name of the person or persons buried with dates or years of their birth and death. Additional words will also be permitted, if they are brief and appropriate.

What is not allowed?

The regulations do not permit:

- the gilding or silvering of an inscription
- monuments in the shape of hearts or urns
- statues or monuments with pictures or photographs
- kerbs, railings or chippings on graves
- grave mounds.

What flowers or plants may be left on graves?

Graves should be grassed to facilitate easy maintenance and grass cutting. Bulbs may be planted and fresh flowers may be left on graves, or in vases incorporated into a stone monument. Trees, shrubs and permanent plants may not be planted. Cut flowers may be left on a grave, best if without paper. Please clear them away after they have died, though of course we understand that you may not be able to. There is a bin for their disposal in the churchyard.

Artificial flowers, except for Remembrance Day
Poppies should not be left on graves,

Interment of Cremated Remains

How do I arrange for the interment of Cremated Remains in Water Orton ?

When arranging a funeral, tell the Funeral Director that you wish for the interment of Cremated Remains in Water Orton, either in an existing cremation plot, or in the Garden of Remembrance, Old Church Road

The Garden of Remembrance for interment of Cremated Remains.

In order to ensure that the Garden of Remembrance may continue to be used for many years cremated remains are buried direct into the earth, using the method known as "funnelling". (Scattering of ashes is not permitted in English churchyards)

Memorial plaques

A memorial plaque with your loved one's names and dates may be fixed to the terrace wall for up to fifty years, after which it may be removed should the space be required. The family will be offered to keep the plaque if they so desire when it is removed from the wall.

The plaques are of standard size. 9" x 6" x 3/8" and made of 'Green Westmorland Slate'. Please contact Church Office to order a plaque. Flowers may be left at the base of the memorial wall.

Upkeep of the Churchyard

Within limited resources we seek to keep the churchyard neat and cared for and to maintain both the appearance and style of this holy place. Financial contributions toward this upkeep are most welcome and helpful.

Churchyard Records

Careful records are kept of all burials and interments of cremated remains.

Fees

The table of current fees and charges may be seen on request to The Church Administrator. Tel 0121 749 1613 or on the Website

Email: waterortonchurch@hotmail.co.uk

Website: www.waterortonparishchurch.org