



Welcome to the Churchyard
at

Holy Trinity Church Nailsea

Notes for Families regarding the
Burials in the Graveyard

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“Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.”

1 Peter 5:7

On behalf of all at Holy Trinity we would like to offer you our love, support and sympathy for you at this time of loss and sadness.

Guidelines for burials and memorial stones.

This leaflet is a guide to help you make important decisions about the burial and graveyard memorial you may wish to have for your loved one. It will let you know how we at Holy Trinity can help you when choosing a final resting place for your loved one. If you have any questions about burial in the graveyard, within an existing grave, and memorial stones or the burial of ashes specifically please initially speak to the Welcome Desk on 01275 853 227 or email welcome@htnailsea.org.uk, we are always here to help.

From earliest times a churchyard has been regarded as “God’s Acre” and as far as possible we aim to reflect the nature of a garden in the church grounds and graveyard here. Churchyards are also places of peace and calm and order. Everything in a churchyard is therefore a matter of care and consideration, from the memorial stones, the floral tributes to the trees and shrubs. For this reasons there are some rules and restrictions established for the use of graveyards in this country which we must follow and we will explain these where they apply.

If you would like to spend a little time in the churchyard to reflect and remember your loved one, there are seats in both the Garden of Remembrance and the ‘Burial of Ashes’ areas. There is also a planted church garden on the other side of the church building. It is quiet and more secluded than the churchyard with lawns and thoughtfully planted beds and borders which also have benches for you to sit and enjoy.

[These Guidance Notes should be read carefully before contacting your memorial mason and you should ensure that they are fully aware of the contents.](#)

We hope the following information is helpful. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us via the Church Office. With thanks for your co-operation, the PCC of Holy Trinity Church, Nailsea.

Burials

Unfortunately the Churchyard and Graveyard at Holy Trinity are now closed to new full burials as all plots have been used. The only exceptions to this are plots previously reserved or re-use of family plots where this is possible (ie they were originally double-dug). If your family requires a new full burial plot we will therefore direct you to the Local Authority.

The Local Funeral Directors are already familiar with the requirements for burials here at Holy Trinity, but our staff are available to answer any questions you may have.

Churchyard Requirements and Regulations

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) for Holy Trinity Nailsea has set out guidance notes for the management of each area, based on the diocese policy for churches. These notes cover detail about use of memorial stones, vases, plaques and floral tributes to ensure that the Churchyard and Graveyard remain tidy, peaceful and quietly respectful for all those who use it to remember loved ones and that we are compliant with relevant requirements for churchyards.

Headstones and Memorials

Before adding any memorial in the Graveyard written permission must be obtained from the Rector. This also applies to the repairs or replacement of any memorial. Permission depends on compliance with the rules issued by the Chancellor of the Diocese as listed below. Any planned memorials/gravestones etc which would not comply with this detail would require approval from the Archdeacon or Chancellor.

Memorial Masons should await the signed permission forms from the Church before any work is carried out. The permission form can be obtained from the church office and should be completed and returned to the office, for the attention of the Rector who will review and authorise and return a copy to the family.

While we cannot recommend specific masons, the Church Office has details of local firms who are familiar with creating gravestones for our churchyard, which we would be happy to share with you, please ask if this would be helpful .

Ongoing Safety of Memorial Stones

For all memorial stones we ask families to check regularly the stability of the memorial stone and contact a Stonemason if any stability work is required. If the stonemason then advises that work is required the family should consult the Rector or Churchwarden who would advise if permission is required before the work is undertaken. Churchwardens will also ensure that an annual check is undertaken to identify any obviously unstable stones, and respectfully lay these flat, to prevent risk of them falling over and causing harm to other users of the churchyard. Wherever possible, the next of kin will be contacted.

Churchyard Maintenance

We employ contractors to cut the grass throughout the year. A team of volunteers from Holy Trinity also co-ordinate and manage weeding of paths and general tidying. Responsibility for maintenance of the Churchyard and Graveyard ultimately rests with the Rector.

We ask families to refrain from digging up any of the earth on the grave or the grassed area surrounding the grave. All tributes to be in keeping with the Christian ethos respecting the peaceful and quietly respectful ambience of the graveyard. Containers for floral tributes, should not be glass or plastic , on the grave and these should be in accordance with the references in this leaflet (Section 5—Diocese Notice). Floral tributes will be removed when they have wilted.

Annual Memorial Service

Each year in the latter part of the year we hold a memorial service at Holy Trinity at which loved ones can be mentioned individually and remembered. This is a moving yet relaxed occasion to which all those bereaved in the previous two years are formally invited. Anyone is welcome and many come year upon year to honour and remember those they have lost, drawing comfort and strength from God and one another.

Someone to talk to

Bereavement can be a very difficult and often lonely time, but you need not feel alone. If you would like someone to talk to or pray for you, please do contact the Rector via the Church Office, telephone 01275 853227 or welcome@htnailsea.org.uk

The Trinity Café at church is also open most weekdays for hot drinks and light snacks and a warm welcome. There is always someone there should you want to chat in a more spontaneous and informal setting.

Requirements for gravestones and memorials.

The list below gives specific details issued by the Diocese in regard to requirements & Guidance for Monuments in the Graveyard. All memorials in the graveyard must comply with these requirements. Please ask if you are uncertain about any of these details or have any concerns about the memorial you are planning .

Extract from Notice Relating to Churchyards issued by the Diocese March 2025

1. Headstone:-

- (a) the height of the memorial above ground level is between 450mm and 1220mm;
- (b) the width of the memorial is between 500mm and 915mm;
- (c) the thickness of the memorial is between 75mm and 105mm (but the thickness of a slate memorial may be a minimum of 50mm);
- (d) the upper edge of the memorial, within the above dimensions, is square or shaped in accordance with the diagrams approved by the Chancellor and kept by the Diocesan Registry;
- (e) the memorial is set into a pre-cast concrete shoe-type foundation which is set directly into the ground, or is attached to a horizontal base which is fixed to a foundation, and is in all respects compliant with British Standard BS8415:2018 "Memorials within burial grounds and memorial sites - Specification," or any similar standard that may replace it;
- (f) the memorial may be to a specification adopted by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission and erected by it or on its behalf. Alternatively a grave marker of a design adopted by the Commission is permitted.

2. Crosses:-

- (a) the height of the cross is between 750 and 1220mm above ground level;
- (b) the width of the cross is between 500mm and 815mm

3. Horizontal Ledgers over coffin burials:-

- (a) the length is between 1200mm and 2100mm;
- (b) the width is between 600mm and 900mm;
- (c) the surface shall be just below the level of the turf.

4. Memorial plaques over cremated remains:-

- (a) the dimensions are no more than 450mm by 400mm;
- (b) the surface shall be just below the level of the turf.

5. **Vases** shall be separate measuring not more than 300mm by 200mm by 200mm.
6. **Monuments** may be of natural wood, slate or the following natural stones namely sandstone limestone and granite.
7. **Stone** shall not be polished or reflective.
8. **Blank and pearl granite**, marble of any colour, synthetic or reconstituted stone and plastic shall not be used.
9. **A monument shall not include** any raised kerb, railing, stone, or other chippings, Picture or photograph, built-in vase container, statuary or bird bath.
10. **No colouring** is permitted except black, white or gold.
11. **Inscriptions** are factually accurate, concise, consistent with Christian doctrine and unlikely to be offensive or controversial for any reason. Any motif, emblem or other Image forming part of the design is of a character commonly found in churchyard memorials or is relevant to the life of the person commemorated and is not inconsistent with Christian doctrine. Such image should not exceed 20% of the face of the stone.
12. **No advertisement or trade mark** is to be inscribed on the monument, except for a reference to the mason incised at the side or on the reverse of a headstone in uncoloured and unleaded letters no more than 15mm in height.
13. **The memorial does not contain a QR code** or any other device intended to enable direct communication with an electronic resource.

Extract from Regulations Issued by: Chancellor 29th day of March 2025