



Welcome to the Churchyard
at

Holy Trinity Church Nailsea

Notes for Families regarding the
The Memorial Garden

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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 burial of ashes and the memorial stone.

This leaflet is a guide to help you make important decisions about the burial of ashes here at Holy Trinity, if that is what you wish for your loved one. It will let you know how we can help you when choosing a final resting place for your loved one. If you have any questions about 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. 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.

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.

Churchyard Requirements and Regulations

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) for Holy Trinity Nailsea has set out guidance notes based on the diocese policy for churches. These notes cover detail about use of floral tributes in the area 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.

The Memorial Garden (Burial of Ashes Area)

This is a new Memorial Garden Area was installed in 2025 at Holy Trinity Nailsea (the Churchyard and graveyard at Holy Trinity are now closed to full burials as all plots have been used). Ashes of loved ones can be buried in unmarked plots within a designated grassed area of the churchyard. It will be possible for the interment (burial) of two people’s ashes in the same plot *eg husband and wife*. Burial of the ashes will be in a biodegradable, container.

The Funeral Directors can advise you further about this, if helpful. Please note that boxes, caskets or containers of other materials cannot be used for burial here.

The names of the deceased whose ashes are buried here will be recorded on a communal memorial stone, however as the churchyard is now full no individual memorial stones (such as grave stones) or plaques can be placed in this area.

Cut flowers can be placed in the separate area adjacent to the communal memorial stone as often as you wish. To keep the area looking fresh and respectful any wilted flowers will be cleared away.

If you would like to spend a little time in the church yard to reflect and remember your loved one there are two seats close to the Memorial Garden for family and friends. 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.

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. The Rector may appoint specific people to help with the maintenance.

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 if you would like to chat in a more spontaneous and informal setting.

Notes to be applied to maintain the ambience of the Remembrance area

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

1. The Memorial Garden (Burial of Ashes Area) includes:
 - A grassed area in which ashes will be interred in unmarked burial plots,
 - A communal memorial stone on which names will be engraved in memory of the deceased.
 - A designated area in which floral tributes may be placed.
2. Ashes for burial should be contained within a biodegradable container provided by the undertaker to be placed in the burial hole. The maximum dimensions of the container will be 203mm (8") long x 140mm (5½") wide x 140mm (5½") high – similar to those used by South Bristol Crematorium to return ashes to the undertakers. Boxes, caskets or containers of other materials will not be permitted. Please note that our churchyard is an ancient and natural space, with Yew Trees and their roots running through many burial areas. We kindly ask families to remain flexible should any issues arise during placement. In such cases, we will work with you to achieve a respectful solution.
3. The Church Office will allocate the position of each burial plot and arrange for the hole to be excavated. The position of the burial plot will be accurately recorded in Parish records.
4. Floral tributes of only real cut flowers without containers or plastic wrappings may be placed in the designated area marked "Flowers" adjacent to the engraved memorial stone. The Church Office will remove any flowers that have wilted.
5. Please be aware that only fresh floral tributes are permitted in the garden, photographs, toys, QR Codes or other memorabilia cannot be placed anywhere in the Burial of Ashes area.

Once a year, the Church Office will arrange for the names of those whose ashes have been interred in the Memorial Garden to be engraved on the communal memorial stone.