

Inscriptions and Engravings

Inscriptions and engravings should be simple, dignified and reverent. The length of the inscription depends on the size of the memorial, which of course also depends on whether the memorial is for a Burial or an Interment of Ashes. Any Inscription or engraving should have a clear Christian or traditional funeral symbolism, or reflect the life and work of the deceased.

The Chancellor of Salisbury Diocese encourages that inscriptions should not act as a “shrine” to the deceased as this would conflict with the view that the souls of the faithful are in the hands of God. The Chancellor also suggests that words should have a degree of longevity and brevity, without leaning towards the overly sentimental. Biblical or well-known hymnal words which give a flavour of the life of the deceased are to be encouraged.

Engraved images must be uncoloured and occupy no more than one fifth of the face of the memorial. A badge or insignia of the armed forces can only be used with the authority from the branch of the forces in question. Portraits of individuals are not permitted. Trademarks, emblems and company names are not permitted.

Material

Limestone – Portland, Purbeck, Derbyshire, York, Hopton, Nabresina, French, Portuguese

Blue Lias and Sandstone

Slate – Light Grey, Blue/Black, or Green

Granite – Light Grey, Granite in Blue or Rustenburg (Charcoal), Grey is also permitted provided the stone is rubbed to a matt finish rather than polished

Oak – unpainted and unvarnished

Lettering may be leaded or painted or gilded black or silver, but in no other colours.

Monuments cannot be made from marble. Stone, including lettering surface shall not be mirror polished (i.e. polished so as to reflect) or be above what is commonly called an eggshell finish.

Flowers

Modest wreaths or cut flowers may be laid in order to remember a loved one, however, they must be removed once they have wilted. Such tributes must be laid directly next to the memorial in order for the churchyard to be mown with ease.

No artificial flowers, or any other plastic tributes are allowed and must be removed as they pose a risk to wildlife.

FUNERALS

Guidance of the Chancellor of Salisbury's Regulations for Churchyard Memorials



Memorials for The Interment of Ashes

When Ashes are interred in a churchyard, it is usual to place a flat stone memorial over the ashes in order to mark the place of interment, and so that there is a clear space where a loved one can be remembered. The memorial can be placed immediately after the interment. The material used and the inscription made should match what is stipulated overleaf. The memorial should be flush with the turf. No fixed vase or other object may be placed on stones over cremated remains.

Shape and Size: The shape of a flat memorial should be rectangle and the size of which should not exceed 30cm x 37cm.

Memorials for Burials

Some people choose to be buried rather than cremated. Burials can take place after a public church service, or can be done in private with the family before or after a service, or a small private funeral can take place at the graveside. A memorial for a burial is often planned soon after the funeral, however, the final stone memorial can only be put in place 6 months after the burial. The Incumbent of Upper Stour is happy to help/give advice as planning a permanent memorial is often a difficult thing to do.



Memorials for Burial Continued...

Size:

- Headstone must be between 150cm and 75cm in height and between 90cm and 37.5cm in width
- Horizontal ledgers between 150cm and 75cm in length and between 90cm and 37.5cm in width
- Fixed memorial vases not exceeding 30cm x 20cm x 20cm
- The base must not project more than 10cm beyond the headstone in any direction. Except however, where a vase is incorporated when the base may extend to a maximum of 15cm in front of the headstone. The base shall be fixed on a foundation slab which must be positioned just below the turf so that a mower may pass freely over it.

Shape: Memorials must have a flat face and be erected vertically from the ground. The following shapes are permitted by the Diocese:

- Simple Headstones
- Simple horizontal ledgers laid flush with the ground so that the mower may pass freely over it
- Crosses, whether simple or Celtic
- Plain open books (without elaborate ornamentation and not exceeding 45cm in height or 75cm in width.)
- Memorial headstones provided in the standard format employed by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission for those who have died whilst on active service

Chancellor of Salisbury Diocese

All the regulations in this leaflet describe what memorials a Parish can approve. Memorials which go beyond these regulations can only be placed in a churchyard with special permission of the Diocesan Chancellor.

Please Ask

The Incumbent of Upper Stour is happy to help/give advice as planning a lasting memorial for a loved one is often a difficult decision to make.



**THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND**

DIOCESE OF SALISBURY

**For any enquiries, please contact
the Parish Office of Upper Stour:**

**parishoffice@upperstour.co.uk
01747 840221**