

**All Saints' Church Whiteparish
Churchyard Policy**

**Churchyards are subject to the law administered
by the Consistory Court of the Diocese**

The Diocesan Chancellor, who is the judge of the Consistory Court, has issued Guidance for churchyard users, and a copy of this is attached. By law, no one has the right to place anything in a churchyard unless it is permitted by the Chancellor. In cases within the Guidance, that permission may be given by the Vicar or Rector under the authority given by the Chancellor for this purpose, but in all other cases it can only be given by the Consistory Court in the form of a special permission called a Faculty. Advice as to how to apply for a faculty can be obtained from the Vicar or Rector or from the Registry of the Diocese, whose details are in the Guidance.

Please Remember

- 1. The graveyard is the property of the Incumbent of All Saints' Church, Whiteparish.**
- 2. Headstones are the property of the family of the deceased.**

The following points are intended as guidance for Whiteparish churchyard and should be read in conjunction with the Diocesan Chancellor's Guidance.

1. Headstones in Whiteparish churchyard should be natural and with a non-reflecting finish. It should be of stone in keeping with that commonly used (mid to light grey) It should not exceed 2ft 6ins in height, and 1ft 9ins in width. Inscriptions should be only incised (natural – no colour). If an emblem is insisted upon, only a small bird, flower or cross will be permitted, no larger than 10cms x 10cms (4 x4 inches). A photograph or drawing of the proposed memorial must be sent for approval before permission will be granted.

*Any deviation from this has to be put before the Chancellor
for his 'out-of-court' advice each time.*

- 2.** It is advisable that headstones for new graves should not be erected until a year after the burial to allow for the ground to settle, as funeral directors have advised that Whiteparish Churchyard is a particularly difficult terrain.
- 3.** Funeral Directors may be asked to re-visit a burial site to check and rectify if necessary.
- 4.** Objects placed in the churchyard should not obstruct mowing, and any which do so may be removed and stored for three months prior to disposal.
- 5.** Objects which are likely to shatter will be removed for reasons of Health and Safety. These will be put in a safe area for three months, where they can be collected, prior to disposal.
- 6.** As the Guidance states, no plastic or synthetic materials are permitted but Remembrance Poppies are permitted between 20th October and 20th December. Christmas wreaths should be removed by their owners by the end of January after which they will be removed by Church Officers and disposed of.
- 7.** As the Guidance provides, no planting of shrubs or trees in the graveyard, or of plants on any grave is permitted unless by faculty.