# Clarendon Team Churchyard Policy
## (July 2025)

The Clarendon Churches' churchyards (Winterslow, Pitton, Farley, Alderbury, West Grimstead, East Grimstead, West Dean and Whiteparish) are governed by the Regulations set out by the Diocese of Salisbury in their Handbook for the Bereaved. We are duty bound to uphold these regulations on behalf of the local community, the Bishop of Salisbury and the wider Church of England.

In deciding to have an individual buried in the churchyard or their ashes interred, you are creating a lasting resting place for their remains, which includes not only the opportunity for the erection of a lasting memorial in the form of a headstone, cross or ashes plaque, but also to have their details entered into the church's burial registers. In addition there are regulations which ensure the churchyard is kept a place of quiet contemplation and remembrance, so that all can enjoy the peace and eternal life to which we believe God promises to all believers.

Careful consideration should therefore be made by the Next of Kin before the funeral to ensure all who have a view to final resting place are consulted and regulations are understood before proceeding.

All regulations, governing documents and application forms can be downloaded from our website:

https://clarendoncofe.org/resources/churchyards

## Regulations for all Churchyards

- No objects should be placed, beyond the permitted memorials, to obstruct mowing and to ensure churchyards are both safe and maintained as places of contemplation. Placement of gravel or other materials around memorial stones is not permitted and may be removed by Church Officers.
- While the regulations state no plastic or synthetic materials are permitted, including flowers, annual remembrance poppies are permitted between 20th October and the 20th December and Christmas wreaths may be placed in December but should be removed by the end of January, after which they may be removed by Church Officers.
- No planting of shrubs, trees or any plant on graves as these obstruct mowing.
- Following a settling period of at least a year, the burial site may be levelled, by either in-filling or topping, where possible, families will be notified in advance that this will take place.

## Specific Churchyard Regulations

- Alderbury Churchyard is closed to full body burials, but the civic burial ground situated below the churchyard to the West, and can be used for this purpose. This burial ground is governed by Alderbury Parish Council.
- Whiteparish Churchyard only permits stone that is 'mid to light grey', and in addition, inscriptions are not permitted to be coloured but white, black, grey, silver are acceptable.

**I / We have read and agree at all times to comply with the Churchyard Regulations as stated in the Salisbury Diocese Handbook for the Bereaved together with the Clarendon Team Churchyard Policy, and acknowledge the right of the Bishop, the incumbent, and the Parochial Church Council to maintain the churchyard in accordance with these regulations.**

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Name Printed: _____