

How much will it cost?

Fees are set by the Church of England each year. In 2020 the fee for a church funeral and burial is £557.00 and the fee for erecting a headstone is £142.00.

Your Funeral Director or Memorial Mason will usually handle these fees for you.

Who to contact

To discuss your wishes, or once you have decided to erect a headstone, please contact us at the following address:

*The Administrator
St Peter's Church Office
Church Street
Wellesbourne
Warwick
CV35 9LS*

You can also telephone the Church on **01789 841359** or send an e-mail to [*st.p.wellesbourne@gmail.com*](mailto:st.p.wellesbourne@gmail.com)

Please make it clear that your enquiry relates to a memorial.

St Peter's Church Wellesbourne

A Guide to Graves and Memorial Options



This guide explains the options for those wishing to erect a memorial to those who are buried, and gives an overview of burial costs.

Spring 2020

Why do we have guidelines?

Within the churchyard we aim for an overall feeling and appearance of peaceful harmony. By following these guidelines the area will look cared for and orderly. We also have to adhere to the rules of the Diocese.

The grave after burial, and subsequent maintenance.

After a burial the earth will be raised into a mound. This will settle naturally over a period of 9 to 12 months, and it is best to allow this to happen before final levelling. If you need help with this the Vicar will be glad to advise.

Once levelled the ground could be sown with grass seed. To help with maintenance planting must be limited to a few spring bulbs which will be mown once the mowing season starts. Please do not construct "mini gardens" on the grave. Artificial flowers are not permitted with the exception of remembrance poppies and Christmas wreaths.

Cut flowers may be left on the grave but please remove them once they have begun to wither. Dead flowers will be removed as part of the churchyard maintenance. Any vase placed on the grave should be sunk flush with the ground.

What about a headstone?

If you decide to have a headstone this should wait until the soil has settled. This will give you time to think about the inscription and the type of stone.

To maintain the continuity of the churchyard the headstone should:

- Be buff or light grey, and of a texture to blend with existing stones. Acceptable stone includes Cotswold, Forest of Dean, Hopton Wood, Hornton, Portland or York stone, or slate.
- Be no more than 1.2 metres high.
- Use black, grey or brown highlighting on recessed text cut into the stone, where highlighting is used.
- Have the approval of the Vicar with regard to wording and size.
- Only have carved images other than a simple cross with permission from the Diocese, on which the Vicar can advise.

What should I avoid?

There are some things that are not in keeping with the churchyard or that hinder maintenance:

- Raised kerbs, chains, chippings or railings as these hinder cutting.
- Granite or marble as these do not blend with local stone.
- Man made materials, highly polished finishes, or gold and silver lettering as these are all visually intrusive.
- Sandblasted or engraved images, photographs, or monuments shaped into books, hearts or similar designs.

How can I be sure to comply with these guidelines?

It is a good idea to consult the Vicar early on in your thinking, before talking to a memorial mason, to help avoid potential difficulties later in the process.

Monumental masons can be found in the Yellow Pages or online, or the Vicar will be able to suggest masons familiar with the churchyard. We suggest that you discuss costs with a mason before proceeding.

Once you have agreed a design with the mason please ask them to send a proposal to the Vicar for approval before erecting the memorial.

This leaflet summarises the *Coventry Diocesan Regulations*. More information can be obtained from the *Diocesan Offices, 1 Hill Top, Coventry, CV1 5AB – 02476 521200*. Information is also online at tinyurl.com/coventrymemorials

What about future maintenance?

Monuments remain the property of those who erect them. Upkeep and repair is a matter for individual families.

The churchyard in general is maintained by volunteers and contractors paid for by church members, with help from the Parish Council. As well as maintaining the harmony of the churchyard, adhering to these guidelines will help to control general maintenance costs.

Any help towards the maintenance of the churchyard will be much appreciated. As part of our heritage we wish the churchyard to remain a place where people can find comfort and tranquility.