



Churchyard Regulations

This consecrated burial ground of a Church of the Church of England is subject to legal control by the Chancellor of the Diocese of Ely on behalf of the Bishop. No ground can be bought or sold, all grave spaces remain the property of the Church of England.

These Regulations apply to all Church Property within the Lordsbridge Group of Churches:

- St Peter's Church, Barton,
- The Church of St Michael and All Angels, Caldecote,
- St Mary's Church, Comberton,
- St Peter's Church, Coton,
- St Peter and St Paul's Church, Dry Drayton,
- St Mary's Church, Great Eversden,
- St Mary's Church, Hardwick,
- The Church of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin, Mary, Harlton,
- All Saints Church, Haslingfield
- St Helen's Church, Little Eversden,
- St Andrew's Church, Toft

Please refer to the Churchyard Regulations of the Diocese of Ely for more information
<https://elydiocesanregistry.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/Ely-Churchyard-Regulations-02.09.17-Rev2-Oct-2024.pdf>

If you have a question, please contact the Team (Appendix A).

If you are seeking permission - for all Interment Requests (including the Interment of Ashes) please complete the form at Appendix B and send it to the appropriate Minister for the Church you would like to use.

REGULATIONS

No memorials may be erected, or any works undertaken, in a churchyard except by written authorisation or faculty. The fact that there is a similar memorial – which does not comply with these Regulations – in a churchyard does not mean that the new memorial may be approved by the Minister.

Anything placed on a grave in memory of a loved one is defined as a memorial (apart from flowers), including statues, ornaments, memorabilia, etc. which are NOT permitted unless written permission is obtained from the Minister.

HEADSTONE TYPES AND DIMENSIONS

A simple vertical headstone not exceeding 4ft high, measured from the surface of the ground, 3ft wide and 6 inches thick. The monument may have a visible stone or concrete base only if the base is an integral part of the design; it does not project from the monument more than 4 inches away from the place of burial and 8 inches towards the place of burial and the monument is connected to the base by non-ferrous dowels (stainless steel permitted). Materials must be natural stone, hardwood and, in the case of a Cross, wrought iron.

Memorial headstones should be simple and be consistent with nearby memorials and the setting of the churchyard. Memorials need not be restricted to a rectangular shape and curved tops are preferable to straight-edged ones. Memorials in the shape of a heart, animal, person or other figure are generally not permitted.

EPITAPHS AND INSCRIPTIONS

Inscriptions must be simple and reverent and must receive the prior written approval of the minister. Additions may be made to inscriptions at a later date, for example following subsequent interments in the same grave. Any such addition or alteration to an inscription must be separately approved by the minister in writing – and the approval of all the relevant family members.

PHOTOGRAPHS etc

The minister does NOT have authority to approve the use of a photograph or an inscribed portrait or other representation of the deceased as part of a memorial or the affixing of porcelain or plastic portraits to a memorial. Save in the most exceptional circumstances a Faculty is unlikely to be granted.

MAINTAINING GRAVESPACES

Kerbs, railings, posts or chains and similar items to enclose a grave are NOT permitted. The use of stone chippings, glass chips, pebbles, artificial grass or similar materials to cover the

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surface of a grave is NOT permitted. Sound, video recordings are not permitted. QR codes and other machine readable labels are not permitted.

Lighting, whether electric or solar, or glass shades are not permitted.

Spring and autumn bulbs may be planted in the soil of any grave in a position adjacent to the headstone – but not trees, shrubs or other plants. The flowers etc of such bulbs are liable to be mown in the ordinary course of churchyard maintenance. No trees or shrubs are to be planted without Faculty permission.

The surface of the grave must be levelled and any mound removed within 6 months of a burial having taken place. It should be levelled and turfed or seeded for grass to allow for mowing.

No artificial flowers may be placed in the churchyard except for Remembrance Day poppies and traditional Christmas wreaths, and these shall be removed within two months.

Wreaths and floral tributes may be laid upon a grave and cut flowers arranged in metal or stone vases placed on the memorial plinth. Additional vases of flowers, pot plants or trees are not permitted.

Persons who carry out the day-to-day upkeep of the churchyard will remove wreaths, cut flowers etc when they appear to be withered or dead. The PCC has authority to remove any artificial flowers, or other memorabilia which do not comply with these Regulations and which have not been authorised by Faculty.

With the permission of the minister, up to 3 toys or similar objects may be left at the place of burial or interment of cremated remains for a period of 12 months from the date of burial or interment—but must be removed at the end of that period. The minister, or a person acting on his or her behalf, may remove any objects which are not, or have ceased to be, authorised under these regulations and which have not been authorised by faculty.

CREMATED REMAINS

Cremated remains must not be scattered on the surface of the ground and must be interred into the earth preferably without a casket or other container. Arrangements for interment must always be made only after prior consultation with the minister. Memorial stones may be introduced at the place where the cremated remains are interred, the dimensions of the stone being no larger than 21 inches by 21 inches. It can be rectangular or square and must be laid flat and below the surface of surrounding turf. No statues are permitted. *Please see above Epitaphs and Inscriptions.*

Appendix A – Contact Information

Revd Clare Coates

Team Rector;

(Lead Minister in Caldecote with Childerley, Dry Drayton, Hardwick and Toft)

clarecoates@lordsbridge.org; 07818 618795

Revd Claire Robertson

(Team Vicar; Lead Minister in Barton, Coton, Harlton and Haslingfield)

clairerobertson@lordsbridge.org; 01223 874194

Revd Charles Fraser

(Team Vicar [MSE]; Lead Minister in Great Eversden and Little Eversden)

charlesfraser@lordsbridge.org; 07789 019157

Revd Priscilla Slusar (Team Support Minister)

priscillaslusar@gmail.com; 01223 356906

Revd Chris Westgarth

(Associate Priest); Comberton}

chris.westgarth1@btinternet.com

Team Administrator

thelordsbridgeteam@gmail.com



Appendix B

Interment (Burial of Ashes) Request Form

Name of Applicant	
Contact Details (email / phone number)	
Churchyard and village of interment and county	
Name(s) of deceased	
Date(s) of death	
Dates deceased lived in village	
Existing family plot or new plot (please delete as appropriate)	
Any other information:	

Please return the completed form to:

Revd Clare Coates, Team Rector;
(Lead Minister in Caldecote with Childerley, Dry Drayton, Hardwick and Toft)
clarecoates@lordsbridge.org; 07818 618795

Revd Claire Robertson
(Team Vicar; Lead Minister in Barton, Coton, Harlton and Haslingfield)
clairerobertson@lordsbridge.org; 01223 874194

Revd Charles Fraser
(Team Vicar [MSE]; Lead Minister in Great Eversden and Little Eversden)
charlesfraser@lordsbridge.org; 07889 019157

Revd Chris Westgarth
(Associate Priest; Comberton)
chris.westgarth1@btinternet.com

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