



GUIDANCE FOR THE BEREAVED & CHURCHYARD REGULATIONS



**THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST ANDREW,
HIGHER BLACKLEY, MANCHESTER**

Introduction

At this sad and difficult time, we hope that this leaflet will answer some of your questions clearly. We are honoured to be involved. We hope that all we do will help you to celebrate the life of the person who has died, will allow you to express your sadness and loss and will encourage you in the hope of the resurrection.

Churchyards are a valuable heritage and reflect the sure and certain hope that those buried therein await the return of Jesus Christ and the life that is to come. Because churchyards are consecrated they fall under the jurisdiction of the Bishop, exercised through the Chancellor of the Diocese who is the ecclesiastical Judge in the Diocese and ultimately responsible for decisions affecting churchyards.

The Chancellor has issued Churchyard Regulations which can be seen at the Diocesan website

www.manchester.anglican.org to ensure that churchyards are kept in decent order so as to show respect for those who have died and so far as is possible to comfort those whose loved ones are buried there.

This short document attempts to assist in the understanding of such Regulations.

Who can be buried here

Parishioners [including all those on the Church Electoral Roll] and others who die in the parish, have a legal right of burial in the churchyard if there is still space available and if the churchyard has not been closed by Order in Council. But permission for others to be buried in the churchyard may be granted by the Incumbent.

There is no right to burial in any particular part of the churchyard and the Incumbent is responsible for deciding where in the churchyard burials will take place.

The construction of a brick-lined vault, bricked grave or a mausoleum in a churchyard requires the authority of a faculty which will be granted only if there are exceptional reasons why this should be permitted.

Whenever a deceased person is buried [or their cremated remains interred] in consecrated ground, it is assumed that the place of burial is intended to be the final resting place of that person.

Please note that once cremated remains are interred they cannot be disturbed. This is important to note if your family has plans to inter a coffin at some time in the future.

Who owns the grave?

Graves are not owned by family members.

This means that no one can place items on a grave other than fresh flowers without permission. Artificial flowers which are appropriate to the season [e.g., Christmas, Mother's Day] may also be placed on graves without permission, but must be removed within two months. Poppies may be placed on the graves of servicemen and women at Remembrance, but must be removed within two months.

Anything which is placed in the churchyard without permission is technically a trespass and you can be asked to remove the item in question. If we cannot reach you, items will be removed and kept safe for you to collect within 12 months of their removal.

Memorials

There are strict rules about what is allowed. Please be very careful to ensure that you have obtained permission to place any kind of memorial, headstone, cross or other item in the churchyard before you order it or bring it into the churchyard.

Any memorial introduced into a churchyard must be permitted by the Chancellor or, in certain cases, the Incumbent. No memorial should be ordered or purchased until permission has been granted.

You should be aware that there are detailed provisions as to the size, materials, position, appearance and inscriptions on memorials.

Application for permission must be made in writing to the Rector. More unusual requests will be referred to the Diocesan Registrar and may require a Faculty Order. A fee is payable for such permission and details are available from the Rector.

No fencing, kerbs, edging or other artificial enclosure of any kind is allowed.

Please note that this is a Christian churchyard and that the graves are to be treated as memorials and not shrines: no pictures, photographs or other personal items are to be placed on the graves.

Unfortunately, from time to time we have had problems with vandals in the churchyard who have stolen wreaths and flowers. Once you have obtained permission to place an item on the grave it is to be placed there at your own risk, and we regret that we cannot accept any liability for loss or damage.

Who maintains the churchyard?

The Parochial Church Council has the responsibility for maintaining the churchyard. Grass cutting is done on a regular basis by volunteers and it is much easier to mow the churchyard if flowers and containers are placed only beneath the headstone and the rest of the grave allowed to grass over.

Alternatives

While some people value the Churchyard Regulations as preserving the special character, peace and dignity of a churchyard, others may find them too restrictive. If you feel that you cannot in honesty abide by them, you may need to consider a burial in the local authority cemetery at Blackley Cemetery and Crematorium.

A prayer

Heavenly Father,
We thank you for all those whom we love but see no longer.
As we remember our loved ones in this place,
Hold before us our beginning and our ending,
The dust from which we come,
And the death to which we move,
With a firm hope in your eternal love and purposes for us,
In Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen

Useful Contacts

St Andrew's Higher Blackley Rector:

Rev'd Pam Smith, M.A.

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St Andrew's Higher Blackley Wardens:

Graham Gordon

Dianne McCann

The Archdeacon of Manchester: Ven Karen Best

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PA to the Archdeacon of Manchester

Jane Banks

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Diocesan Registrar: Donna Myers

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A copy of this information can be found on our website
blackleycofe.church/stewardship

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