

ST JOHN THE DIVINE
MENSTON WITH WOODHEAD

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL POLICY ON THE
BURIAL OF CREMATED REMAINS

The PCC formulated the following Policy, effective June 2006, which provides clarification for relatives who desire the cremated remains of parishioners to be interred in existing graves or in the Garden of Rest within St John's Churchyard.

A Faculty was granted to the Church in July 1971 permitting the setting aside of an area in the SE corner of the churchyard as a Garden of Rest specifically for the interment of cremated remains (1). This pleasant grassed area, identified by a memorial stone, is sustainable and practical. It not only fits in with the character of the graveyard, but also forms part of an ecologically friendly environment. No permission was granted for the placing of memorial plaques or other markers in this area. The method of interment for all cremated remains is equitable, see below.

Interment of Cremated Remains

- a) may be interred in existing family graves;
- b) where no family grave exists then interment is unmarked within the Garden of Rest;
- c) the mode of interring cremated remains is by direct committal of the "ashes" into the earth; they will be buried at a depth of at least 4" and carefully covered with earth.

Memorials

- d) When cremated remains are interred in an existing grave, it is acceptable for a memorial, in a stone and style permitted by the Diocese, to be placed/erected at the grave, or where there is an existing memorial for an additional inscription to be made on that memorial. (2) -B Monuments.
- e) The names of those whose funeral takes place in church and/or whose cremated remains are interred in the Garden of Rest may be recorded in the Book of Remembrance.
- f) A private Petition for Faculty for interment of cremated remains and/or placing of a memorial plaque elsewhere in the churchyard may be made (2) -A General. The PCC has been advised to follow procedures d) and e) above and given the limited space in the churchyard, would be unlikely to support such a Petition.
- g) **NB:** The only exception is in regard to Petitions for Faculty for memorial plaques for former incumbents of St John's Church.

General

- To facilitate maintenance of the Garden of Rest/Churchyard only bulbs may be planted. Cut flowers and wreaths will be removed when withered. Please note that no artificial flowers, toys or other embellishments are permitted. (2) – D The Sward
- People are welcome to spend reflective time in the sacred space and tranquillity of the churchyard. There are seats overlooking both the graveyard and the Garden of Rest.
- In the interests of health and safety, visitors should not lean on gravestones, nor should children be allowed to play in the churchyard generally.

(1) *A copy of the 1971 Faculty for the Garden of Rest is held in the Parish Office.*

(2) *The 1990 Revised Churchyard Rules for the Diocese of Bradford are on display in the church porch.*