

RULES GOVERNING BELTINGHAM CHURCHYARD
Adopted by the Parochial Church Council of Beltingham with Henshaw
12th November 2012

GENERAL

1. The surface of the churchyard should be kept level as far as possible and free from grave mounds so that the grass may be cut by a mower.
2. Every application to erect or place anything whatsoever or do any works in the churchyard shall be made in writing in the first place to the incumbent, stating a full description of the proposed works including (as may be appropriate) designs, measurements, inscriptions and the like particulars. In any case, where the authority of a faculty is required, the application shall be made to the register of the diocese.
3. Nothing shall be erected or placed in the churchyard until such proposals have received consent of the incumbent in writing, or until a faculty has been received, as the case may be.

MONUMENTS

4. The incumbent will normally be able to sanction the erection of the following classes of monuments without the authority of a faculty:
 - (a) Headstones no larger than 4ft (1200 mm) high, 3ft (900 mm) wide, and 6 ins (150 mm) thick nor less than 2ft 6 ins (750 mm) high, 1ft 8 ins (500 mm) wide and 3 ins (75 mm) thick.

NOTE: A base forming an integral part of the design of a headstone is permitted provided it does not project more than 2 ins (50 mm) beyond the headstone in any direction and provided it is fixed on a foundation slab (which may be of any suitable material, not necessarily natural quarried material) which itself is fixed flush with the ground and extending 3 to 5 ins (75 to 125 mm) all round so that a mower may freely pass over it.
 - (b) Vases not more than 12 by 8 ins (300 x 200 x 200 mm) with a memorial inscription.
 - (c) It would be helpful and in everyone's interest if the number of the grave could be marked in small letters, no more than ½ in (15 mm) high at the side or reverse of the headstone.
 - (d) Monuments may be erected no sooner than 6 months after the burial.
 - (e) Wording on monuments to be simple and reverent.
5. All such monuments should be made of oak or of natural stone. Stones traditionally used in local buildings, or stones closely similar to them in colour and texture, are to be preferred.
6. A cross should be individually designed, if a permanent memorial in this form is desired.

THE SWARD

7. Bulbs and small annual plants may be planted in the soil of any grave.
8. Plants or flowers may be placed in a removable sunken container, preferably of unpolished aluminium. No glass containers may be used.
9. Wreaths and cut flowers may be laid direct on any grave or set in vases or containers as above. Persons deputized to care for the day-to-day upkeep and maintenance of the churchyard may remove the same when they appear to be withered.

SPECIFIC EXCEPTIONS

10. No synthetic or plastic headstones may be erected.
11. No raised kerbs, railings, plain or coloured stone chippings, bird baths, mass produced pictures or etchings, or photographs set into memorials.