

**ST MARY MAGDALENE BOLNEY IN THE DIOCESE OF CHICHESTER.
POLICY FOR THE BURIAL OR INTERMENT OF ASHES IN THE CHURCHYARD
AND THE ERECTION OF MONUMENTS.
www.stmarymagdalenebolney.org.uk**

We follow the Diocese of Chichester's general directions concerning churches and churchyards which the Parochial Church Council is bound to observe. Please follow the link 'Care of the Churchyard' to view the full directions on our website.

Fees and Authorities

- Charges for burial/interment will be levied at the statutory rate set by the Church of England and any additional fees set by the PCC. These are generally payable as Funeral Director disbursements although occasionally some fees may need to be paid directly to the PCC.
- By seeking to use consecrated ground, the bereaved must be aware that they are also submitting to the jurisdiction of the consistory court in all matters, including the conduct of the service and the marking of the grave.

Right of Burial or Interment

- The right of burial or interment is open to all residents of the parish or anyone who dies in the parish, irrespective of faith or church membership. Specific burial places may not be reserved. The churchyard is reserved for the following:
 1. Persons resident in the Parish.
 2. Persons whose names are on the church electoral roll of the Parish.
 3. Persons dying in the Parish.
 4. Persons not meeting the above criteria may be buried or interred in a family grave, provided the capacity exists.
- Following burial, a headstone may be erected, or amended, but this must be in accordance with the Chancellor's Directions.
- Ashes must be placed in a bio-degradable bag, or poured into the plot. Caskets are not permitted. The place of interment of ashes may be marked by a small flat plaque, lying flush with the ground level, again subject to the Chancellor's Directions.

Addition October 2007

- The PCC will support burial applications subject to the applicant being a regular communicant and member of the electoral roll.
- The reservation should only be valid whilst the applicant lives in the parish and a regular communicant of the congregation.
- If the applicant leaves the parish due to hospitalisation or to a care home they would still be considered to be a communicant.
- Only family graves (double depth) can be reserved.

Addition January 2021

- As the churchyard is rapidly running out of grave space, the PCC have agreed in line with the policy of the Diocese of Chichester, that it will no longer be able to consider any requests to reserve grave spaces.
- The PCC considers it is fair and right that all remaining spaces should be used as and when required by the relatives of eligible deceased persons.
- The only exception will be a request to reserve an already occupied double depth grave by a close family member.

Amendment August 2022: The Parish priest and the PCC would not support any future petition for a reservation. The PCC considers it fair and right that all remaining spaces should be used by those with a right of burial in the churchyard or as otherwise approved by the parish priest as they die.

For any further guidance please visit our website or contact a church warden
Please see the noticeboard or parish magazine for contact details.

Reviewed annually: 2nd meeting after each APCM