

It is usually the case that a double depth grave is reopened in order to bury a close family member such as a spouse or a child. However, exceptions can be made to this, as long as the family of the person originally buried in the plot approves.

Memorials on graves

- Memorials on graves where there is currently no memorial should be a **headstone only**.
- All new and replacement memorials must be approved by the church before placement, and a fee is payable, details of which can be obtained from the Church Office.
- Built-in flower vases are not allowed.
- Stones must not be coloured (natural, black or grey only).
- No photos are allowed on memorials and any symbols must be Christian, such as a cross or a dove.

If you are planning to have any work done on a grave, you will need prior approval, so please come and speak to us first and we can help you to find the best way forward.

Memorials on ashes plots throughout the churchyard

- All new memorials must be approved by the church before placement, and

a fee is payable, details of which can be obtained from the Church Office.

- Stones in the ashes plots must be no more than 12 by 18 inches (portrait or landscape)
- They must be completely flat and placed flush the ground.
- Built-in flower vases are not allowed.
- Stones must not be coloured.

No photos are allowed on memorials and any symbols must be Christian.

Maintenance of Graves and Ashes plot

We try to keep our churchyard looking beautiful for everyone to enjoy. This takes considerable time and effort from volunteers and the following guidelines must be observed.

- **Graves:** Please do not dig up the grass, plant anything in the grass or put any edging around the grave area. Please try to keep flowers, wreaths etc. on the base of the headstone so that they do not impede mowing.
- **Ashes plots** (*for Garden of Rest see overleaf*) Please remember that all items placed on ashes plots need to be moved every time we mow the grass. We therefore request that there is no more than one item on the stone at any time, and that it can be moved easily. Do not dig up the

grass around the stone, put edgings around the stone or plant anything in the grass.

We take no responsibility for anything placed on ashes plots or graves - things sometimes get lost or broken. The church reserves the right to remove any item.

Garden of Rest

The new Garden of Rest has been created to serve the needs of the local community. We hope it will be a sacred space to remember loved ones but also as place of beauty and tranquillity. A great deal of effort and prayer has gone into making this Garden and it is our intention to maintain the area to a high standard. The following information is designed as a guide for those considering interments.

Interment of Cremated Remains

- Cremated remains may only be interred by prior arrangement with St Mary Magdalene's church.
- Cremated remains will be interred loose beneath the surface of the ground and not scattered on the surface.
- Cremated remains will be interred in the presence of the minister or other authorised person.
- Caskets or any other container will not be permitted to be interred.
- Areas cannot be reserved.

Monuments

- In a Garden of Rest the erection of a monument is a privilege and has no automatic right in Law.
- In the interests of space and maintenance, memorials to loved ones will consist of the inscription of names and dates in a Book of Remembrance.
- Those who wish for an inscription are asked to contact the Parish Office in the first instance.
- The Book of Remembrance is located in the Church. An online version is planned.

Flowers

- Nothing may be placed on or around the Garden of Rest
- An area near the Garden of Rest will be provided for the laying of fresh flowers and Christmas Wreaths.
- Wreaths may be placed near the garden but will be removed after seven days.
- Under no circumstances must plastic or other artificial flowers be placed in the churchyard.
- Visitors are asked NOT to leave pot plants or other ornaments.



Long term care for the Garden of Rest

Please note that the arrangements detailed in this document have been made in consultation with Diocesan Regulations and in the interests of long term maintenance of the area. The Parochial Church Council has given its full support to these guidelines and interments are permitted on condition that they are observed.

Upkeep costs

The members of St. Mary Magdalene's church pay for much of the upkeep of the churchyard. We therefore welcome one-off or annual donations towards churchyard maintenance

Contact us

For further information please contact the church office. Office hours are Monday, Tuesday & Thursday, 9.30am – 1.00pm.

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LILLINGTON PARISH CHURCH

St. Mary Magdalene

THE CHURCHYARD



The churchyard at St. Mary Magdalene's is a beautiful, tranquil space, used by many people in our community as a place to think, to reflect and to remember loved ones. It has a rich diversity of flora and fauna, with some areas deliberately being less managed, so they become wildlife havens.

Burials

We are a closed churchyard. This means that we are unable to do any burials in new graves. However, we do continue to do burials where the deceased is to be interred in an existing grave that was initially dug to double depth. This will be indicated in our church records. If the existing grave is not recorded as being double depth, we cannot re-open it.