

Burial policy

Rights of burial

According to the Diocese of Carlisle Burial Regulations 2011, parishioners, including those on the Electoral Roll, and others who die in the parish, have a legal right of burial in the churchyard so long as there is space available.

Permission for others to be buried may be granted by the Incumbent, who must have regard to any general guidance given by the PCC.

Guidance of this PCC

Burials and interments in the Graveyard

10 May 2011 the PCC agreed:

- that only those who have a legal right may be buried in a new plot in the churchyard.
- People who do not have such a right may be buried where they will be sharing an existing family grave.
- In special circumstances the PCC may agree to the incumbent making an exception, e.g. where someone has lived in the parish for a long period and has moved away recently. Sometimes these instances may concern people who are on the electoral roll anyway, in which case they have a legal right to burial. The PCC must agree to each of these exceptions.

10 July 2014 the PCC agreed:

- Use of a full grave site for interment of ashes will not be allowed.

17 July 2017 the PCC agreed:

- to allow interment of ashes (not Burials) on compassionate grounds for close relatives of residents of the parish, at the discretion of the PCC.

Headstones, Plaques and Memorials

21 May 2014 the PCC voted, *amended 24 May 2016*:

- shiny polished granite headstones &c. *polished to a higher grade than 200 grit* will not be acceptable in the churchyard.

21 July 2015 the PCC agreed

- Applications for installation of gravestones must be accepted by both church wardens. Contact may be made through the church website www.spfb.or.uk.

Memorial Garden

12 January 2012 the PCC agreed that the garden of remembrance is for ashes only: no caskets should be buried (see qualification to this 10 July 2014) and there should be no stone markers. For best practice, positions of interment will be noted, but there is no undertaking not to inter ashes in previously used positions.

13 March 2012 the PCC considered the plaque in the Garden and agreed:

- There should be no numbering of entries on the plaque
- It will be the responsibility of the funeral director to make sure dates are correct

The plaque was refaced in early 2012 by ~~Stonecraft Design~~ of Kendal and all inscriptions rewritten. As their machines will replicate the typeface used, funeral directors will be requested to use Stonecraft Design for future inscriptions on the plaque.

10 July 2014 the PCC agreed:

- Only completely bio-degradable containers may be used in Garden of Remembrance.

Trees

21 July 2015 the PCC agreed

- No further tree planting should be done in the churchyard, due to lack of space and the burden of future maintenance..