

## **Diocese of Salisbury**

The Chancellor has delegated to the incumbent power within his or her sole discretion to permit the introduction into their churchyard of memorials falling within the following provisions:

### Memorials

#### **Size** (Measurements including the base):

- Headstones between 150cm (5ft) and 75cm (2ft 6in) in height and between 90cm (3ft) and 37.5cm (1ft 3in) in width.
- In the case of infant burials memorials may be smaller but must have a minimum size of 45cm (1ft 6in) in height by 30cm (1ft) in width.
- Horizontal ledgers between 150cm (5ft) and 75cm (2ft 6in) in length and between 90cm (3ft) and 37.5cm (1ft 3in) in width.
- Fixed memorial vases not exceeding 30cm x 20 cm x 20cm (1ft x 1ft x 1ft).
- Flat stones over cremated remains not exceeding 30cm x 37cm (1ft x 1ft 3in). For the avoidance of doubt, no fixed vase or other object may be placed on stones over cremated remains.

A base forming an integral part of the design of a headstone which does not project more than 10cm (c.4ins) beyond the headstone in any direction (except where a vase is incorporated when the base may extend a maximum of 15cm (c.6ins) in front of the headstone) is permitted. The base shall be fixed on a foundation slab which must be positioned just below the turf so that a mower may pass freely over it.

#### **Shape:**

Memorials must have a flat face and must (save for horizontal ledgers) be erected vertically from the ground.

- Simple headstones
- Simple horizontal ledgers laid flush with the ground so that the mower may pass freely over it.
- Crosses, whether simple or Celtic
- Plain open books (without elaborate ornamentation and not exceeding 45cm (1ft 6in) in height nor 75cm (2ft 6in) in width)
- Memorial headstones provided in the standard format employed by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission or any successor body for those who have died whilst on active service may be permitted.

#### **Materials:**

Monuments shall be in keeping with the church and other memorials in the relevant area of the churchyard and made of:

**Limestone** - Portland, Purbeck, Derbyshire, York, Hopton, Nabresina, French, Portuguese;

**Blue lias and Sandstone** - from local sources;

**Slate** - Light Grey, Blue/Black, Green;

**Granite** - Light Grey. Granite in Blue or Rustenburg (Charcoal) Grey is also permitted, provided the stone is rubbed to a matt finish rather than polished;

**Oak** - unpainted and unvarnished.

Monuments shall not be of marble.

Stone, including the lettering surface, shall not be mirror polished (i.e. polished so as to reflect) or be above what is commonly called an eggshell finish.

#### **Inscriptions & Engravings:**

Inscriptions and engravings on memorials should be simple, dignified and reverent and should have a clear Christian or traditional funerary symbolism or reflect the life and work of the deceased. They must also be appropriate in a consecrated setting.

The commemoration of those whose remains are not buried at the grave marked will be exceptional and will require faculty permission. The creation of "shrines" to the deceased could conflict with the view that the souls of the faithful are in the hands of God. It should be remembered that epitaphs will be read not only by those who knew the deceased but also by others, and long after family members have themselves passed away. It is therefore important that words should have a degree of longevity and brevity, without leaning towards the overly sentimental. Biblical or well-known hymnal words which give a flavour of the life of the deceased are to be encouraged.

If a nickname is to be included it should appear after a given name in brackets as follows: Robert (Bob) Smith. Requests for the use of such names as "Mum" or "Dad" are within the incumbent's discretion. **Lettering should be clearly incised or carved, and may be leaded or painted or gilded black, silver or gold but in no other colours.** Engraved images must be uncoloured and occupy no more than one fifth of the face of the memorial. A badge or insignia of the armed forces must not be used unless the incumbent has a letter of authority from the branch of the forces in question. Portraits of individuals are not permitted. Trademarks,

emblems, and company names are not permitted but the name of an individual craftsman may be incised on the reverse in letters no more than 13mm (1/2in) high.

**Position:**

A headstone shall not be erected within 120cm (c.4ft) of the outer wall of the church building.

**Fixture:**

All memorials shall be fixed securely and in accordance with BS84 1 5. It shall be the responsibility of the person seeking permission to introduce the memorial, and their stonemasons, to ensure that the memorial is fixed safely and securely and remains safe.

**PROHIBITIONS**

For the avoidance of doubt, the incumbent may not permit:  
Kerbs, railings, fencing or chippings as these create difficulty or danger when mowing.

Memorials in the shape of a specific object, such as a heart or boulder; and Mementoes and objects such as statues, toys, wind chimes, photographs and candles, which must not be fixed to, hung upon or placed with a memorial. Such items must be removed in accordance with rule 14.5 below by the incumbent or churchwardens, who may, at their discretion, allow such articles to remain on new graves for a period of up to 13 months.

For more information go to: <https://www.salisbury.anglican.org/>