

# **Parish Church of All Hallows**

## **in the United Benefice of Kirkburton and Shelley**

This leaflet has been designed to help you remember those whom you have lost. It has been written in the spirit of love to guide you to make informed choices about deciding on a memorial which complies with the Churchyard Regulations of the Church of England. Together we can create a peaceful and sacred place where you can remember your loved one.



Thank you for taking the time to read this leaflet. If, at any stage, you have any questions or concerns please get in touch and we can talk these through together. Contact details are on the penultimate page of this leaflet.

All blessings and prayers at this time.

## The Churchyard, All Hallows' Parish Church



### **Our Heritage**

All Hallows has recently been recognised by Church Buildings Council as being one of the most Significant Parish Churches in the country. It is considered to be the most complete example of a 13<sup>th</sup> century church in West Yorkshire and has been at the centre of the community for over 800 years.

Its Churchyard is a peaceful place which is managed sympathetically to enhance the flora and fauna around the Church. All Hallows has a dedicated team which creates and maintains this award winning churchyard. The Green Flag Community award is the ninth consecutive accolade for the churchyard, which confirms it meets a national standard for quality green spaces. It is the only churchyard in Yorkshire and the North East to ever win this mark of excellence.

Dear Friend

In the weeks and months following the death of someone we have loved there are many different emotions that we can experience. Shock and disbelief can give way to sadness, anger, guilt or a strange kind of numbness which seems to make everything more difficult to face. Above all, there can be a real sense of loss and a desire to have something tangible to remember our loved one by.

It is at this point that the question of whether or not to erect a memorial or gravestone can arise. If there is already a stone marking a family grave then it may be a matter of adding a name to the existing inscription, but often it is a question of a new stone being erected. Memorial stones are expensive, and so it is important that whatever memorial is chosen is right for everyone concerned.

As in all churchyards in the Diocese of Leeds, there are regulations at All Hallows church about what kind of memorial stone might be appropriate. These regulations cover the size and shape of the stone, the material from which it is made, and the inscription. These regulations have been drawn up to make sure that whatever monuments are placed in a churchyard take account of certain important considerations. These considerations are outlined in the section relating to headstones from the Chancellor's General Directors which is included with this letter.

A churchyard, unlike a cemetery, is not only a place for burials. It is primarily the area around a Church which is a living place of worship, daily for some, weekly for others. A churchyard is thus concerned equally with the living as with the dead.

A churchyard is also a public place, and all that is erected in it must show sensitivity as to its context and to its neighbourhood. Beauty, harmony, grace and tranquillity are important attributes of a churchyard.

The care of the churchyard embraces many of the factors which most closely touch our present generation: a concern for conservation, both of wildlife and of our artistic and architectural heritage; a concern for visual values and for good design; a need for solitude and quietness; and a desire for visual presentation of the interdependent mysteries of life and death.

Although local monumental masons may be generally aware of the regulations, and will be able to give advice about which stones are appropriate, it is vital that you and they submit a full description of the memorial to the church authorities **before** any work is begun. In this way possible disappointment or needless expense may be avoided, if the stone is rejected because it does not comply with regulations. I have also included a copy of the form that stonemasons are required to complete for your information.

May God show you his love, now and always,

  
Reverend Amanda Grant

# Rules governing graves, monuments and memorial stones in our churchyard

These regulations are taken from the Church of England and can be found on the Diocese of Leeds website. They are designed to help with the management of the churchyards, to encourage good practice and ensure that they are preserved for the benefit and enjoyment of the whole parish and local community. Local stonemasons and undertakers are aware of these regulations and will deal with the necessary approvals and fees.

The incumbent (vicar) has the authority to permit the introduction of a headstone which is sympathetic with the churchyard as a whole and which complies with the following requirements.

## ***Size***

No more than 1200 mm nor less than 750 mm high (4 ft; 2 ft 6 in)

No more than 900 mm nor less than 500 mm wide (3 ft; 1 ft 8 in)

No more than 150 mm nor less than 75 mm thick (6 in; 3 in)

In the case of infant burials, no less than 600 mm x 375 mm x 50 mm  
(2 ft x 1 ft 3 in x 2 in)

## ***Base***

A base forming an integral part of the design of a headstone may be included, provided it does not project more than 50 mm (2 in) beyond the headstone in any direction and provided that it is fixed on a foundation slab of an approved material which itself is fixed flush with the ground and extending 75mm to 125mm(3 in to 5 in) all round so that a mower may freely pass over it.

## ***Materials***

The following stone is permitted:

Limestone:	Derbyshire Derbyshire Fossil Ravensworth
Sandstone:	Yorkshire Derbyshire – Derby Dale Gloucester/Forest of Dean Serena Allswick Blue
Slate:	Cumberland

Granite: Westmoreland  
North Lancashire  
Bluehill Grey  
Cornish Grey  
Cumbrian Grey  
Devon Grey  
Karin Grey  
Indian Grey  
New North Grey  
South African Dark Grey  
Creetown

### ***Appearance***

Polished stone or mirror finish is not permitted.

### ***Inscriptions***

Photographs or representations of objects or motifs such as a child's toy are not permitted nor the use of 'pet names'. Bronze or ceramic inserts are not to be used. Badges, crests or emblems may be used provided they are seemly and appropriate for the deceased. Any representation will need to be designed so that it may be accurately cut by a skilled craftsman. Masons' or carpenters' names, signs or marks may be inscribed on any monument provided their position and appearance are unobtrusive having regard to the monument as a whole. Incised lettering may be painted in gold, silver, matt white, matt black or matt grey. Plastic inserted lettering is not permitted.

### ***Crematory Remains***

Unless cremated remains are buried in an existing grave, they are interred in our ashes plot at the top of the new churchyard. It is not necessary to have a memorial stone, but should you choose to do so, then it should be 300mm (12 inches) square, properly bedded in and laid flat with the ground so that a mower can pass over the top of it. There should be nothing around the memorial stone and vases for flowers are not permitted. Materials should be in line with the list above for other memorials and inscriptions limited to the name of the deceased and dates of birth and death.

Below is an example of the permitted inscription on this type of memorial stone.

JOHN EDWARD SMITH  
1.1.1950 – 31.12.2010  
In Loving Memory

### ***Position***

No memorial may be erected within 3 metres of the outer wall of the church building save by authority of a faculty.

### ***Fixture***

Regard must be had to health and safety concerns, and to current industry standards for the fixing of monuments safely and securely.

#### **8. *Crosses***

An incumbent may NOT consent to the introduction of a cross. Such monuments require a high standard of design. However, the incumbent may authorise the temporary introduction of a simple wooden cross no more than 12 inches in height to mark a recent burial. Such cross must be removed upon the erection of a stone memorial or after a period of 18 months, whichever be the sooner.

### **Prohibitions**

9 For the avoidance of doubt, the following are not permitted:

- i. kerbs, railings, fencing, chippings, pebbles and similar materials, and free-standing vases. These create difficulty or danger when mowing;
- ii. memorials in the shape of vases, hearts, open books;
- iii. memorials incorporating photographs or portraits;
- iv. mementoes, windmills, toys or little animals, solar lamps or similar;
- v. the use of 'pet names'
- vi. artificial flowers.

### **Commonwealth War Graves**

Graves of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission are marked by memorial headstones of a distinctive design and size, indicating their particular significance.

### **Important Notes**

**The Incumbent has no authority to permit the erection of a memorial which does not comply with these Regulations. Any non-compliant memorial (whether or not the incumbent has purported to give his authority) may be removed.**

**Please return a signed and dated copy of the declaration included with this booklet. We have provided a stamped, addressed envelope for your use.**

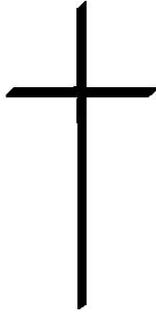
# Book of Remembrance

The names of those whose ashes are interred in our graveyard will be entered in the Book of Remembrance which is kept in the Church.

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If you need to apply for a memorial stone and information please contact:

Reverend Amanda Grant at  
[amandagrants1@hotmail.com](mailto:amandagrants1@hotmail.com)



I said to the person who stood at the gate of the year,  
"Give me a light that I may tread safely into the  
unknown." And he replied, "Go out into the darkness  
and put your hand into the Hand of God."

"That shall be to thee better than a light and safer than  
the known way. So I went forth and finding the Hand of  
God trod gladly into the night."

*An adapted poem, by Minnie Louise Haskins*

