

This Burial ground was consecrated in 1928 and provides a resting place for any parishioners resident in the parish of St Thomas, Groombridge at the time of their death.

The guidelines for an application for new graves, headstones and, their care and upkeep, are summarised here by Groombridge Parochial Church Council (PCC), based on the Chancellor's General Directions (Issue 3, Epiphany 2014) in the Anglican Diocese of Chichester. These are designed to encourage best practice.

- 1 It is unlawful for a monument or surround to be introduced into this churchyard without permission. Application forms are provided by the Funeral Director and sent to the Parish Priest who, is also happy to be consulted about appropriate design, wording, and appearance.
- 2 For the tending of graves, the following are permitted:
 - bulbs and small annual plants may be placed in the soil of any grave
 - plants or cut flowers may be placed in removable sunken containers (preferably of unpolished aluminium) in the soil of any grave
 - wreaths and cut flowers on graves and plants and flowers in containers may be removed, when withered, by those authorised to do so by the incumbent.
 - we regret that it is necessary to bring your own water to top up containers.
- 3 We regret that the following are **not** permitted:
 - kerbs, railings, fencing or chippings as these create difficulty or danger when mowing or strimming
 - memorials in the shape of vases, hearts, open books
 - memorials incorporating photographs or portraits
 - mementoes, windmills, toys or little animals
 - the use of 'pet names' on headstones
 - artificial flowers.
- 4 A Faculty (equivalent to planning permission) may be sought from the Chancellor for the erection of a memorial which does not comply with these Regulations, and initial advice can be given by the Parish Priest.
- 5 This is a rural churchyard and we do not permit highly polished memorials or gold lettering. Our preferred stone type is Sandstone, Limestone or Granite.
- 5 Ashes are interred in individual plots which measure 24" x 24". Headstones may be no larger than 20" high, 14" wide and 2" thick. No vase holders to be incorporated into the headstone, but containers can be placed on the plot.
- 6 We do empty the rubbish bin but it means taking the rubbish up to the church in our cars. If you can take your own rubbish home with you, it would be greatly appreciated.
- 7 The Archbishop's Commission on Rural Areas encourages us to create a natural habitat for wildlife and in the summer months we mow around the edges, leaving the wild flowers to seed themselves among the graves.
- 8 The upkeep of grave or plot is the responsibility of the family of the deceased. However, we have a 'Garden Gang' who maintain much of the woodland surrounding the churchyard, and generally keep it in good order. If you would like to help in any way, please get in touch with Peter Taylor on 01892 864528.
- 10 We receive help towards the mowing costs through a grant from Withyham Parish Council for which we are very grateful. Other costs are born by the church. If you would like to make a donation towards the upkeep of this beautiful churchyard, please contact our Treasurer, Colin Moore on 01892 864752.

Thank you

A link to the full Chancellor's Directions can be found on our website: www.stthomasgroombridge.org.uk