

HOLY TRINITY, PRESTWOOD AND ST. MARY MAGDALENE, GREAT HAMPDEN

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Ashes Garden Memorial

HTP PCC Policy

This policy sets out the procedure by which ashes are interred in the churchyard of Holy Trinity, Prestwood following the installation of the Ashes Garden Memorial in 2021.

Scope

It is a duty of a parish church to bury or inter the ashes of residents of the parish and members of the electoral roll. Canon B39 'Of the burial of the dead' and Section 3 of the Church of England (Miscellaneous Provisions) Measure 1992 determine the scope of that duty.

The Ashes Garden Memorial was erected because space in the Ashes Garden was running out. Families may still choose to inter a relative's ashes in either a family grave or in an already existing ashes plot that has been dug with extra depth to accommodate the ashes.

This policy relates to new interments at the Ashes Garden Memorial.

Policy

1. Whilst a family is planning for a funeral with a cremation they will be informed of this policy.
2. Ashes will be strewn into the ground before the memorial.
3. "Strewing" is pouring the ashes directly into the ground before immediately covering them over with earth. No casket or box or other container will contain the ashes in the ground.

4. Unless the family wishes to retain it, the container that held the ashes before strewing will be safely disposed by the church or funeral director.
5. A record will be kept of the plot where the ashes were strewed, which may not equate to the place on the memorial where the deceased's name is recorded.
6. Plots will be dug in strict rotation, according to the ground plan attached to this policy.
7. Before the Interment of Ashes service the plot will be prepared according to the schedule of the ground plan:
 - a. Cutting out a square piece of turf.
 - b. Digging to the required depth.
 - c. Keeping the soil to one side of the dug plot.
 - d. Double or extra depth plots can be dug by arrangement with the funeral directors and will be recorded as such.
8. During the service the minister will inter the ashes by
 - a. Pouring the ashes directly into the dug hole.
 - b. Back filling the hole with enough earth to cover the ashes.
9. After the service the plot will be made good by
 - a. Back filling the hole with the remaining earth.
 - b. Putting the turf back and watering.
10. Those whose ashes are so interred can be remembered by having their names and years carved on to one of the side stones of the memorial.
11. This will require a ledger agreement for an additional inscription on an existing monument, the schedule to which must indicate acceptance of this policy.
12. Lettering:
 - a. Names will be first name and surname.
 - b. Years will be year of birth and year of death.
 - c. For example:

JOHN SMITH 1920-1990

13. Carving will be arranged by the church using its approved stonemason and charged to the family.
14. Letters will be carved in one-inch-high brushed calligraphic capitals.
15. The cost to the family will be charged as a price per letter as agreed from time to time with the stonemason (currently £16 + VAT per letter).
16. The carving will usually take place after the interment at a time determined by the stonemason.

17. No other lettering will be permitted save, at the discretion of the incumbent, a well-used nickname in single quotes between first name and surname where space allows.
18. The memorial remains the property of the PCC and will be maintained by it.
19. Additional stones will be purchased and added to the memorial by the PCC as required.
20. A servicing fee will be charged for each name recorded on the memorial to defray the costs of maintenance and purchase of stones.
21. Therefore, the costs of interring and recording the name and years of an individual will consist of
 - a. The Statutory Fee for '*Burial of cremated remains in churchyard or other lawful disposal of cremated remains on separate occasion*'
 - b. The servicing fee set by the PCC
 - c. The carving cost set by the stonemason.
22. No other ledger or memorial will be permitted, save when a family has purchased a family memorial stone to be added to the memorial.
23. Families may be able to purchase individual memorial stone of a size and shape determined by the church in agreement with the stonemason. This would allow further family members/friends to be added to the family memorial stone in the future.
24. An additional family memorial stone can be purchased to be added to the memorial whilst space permits and the PCC is in favour.
 - a. This stone will require a Ledger Agreement (as 'any other monument').
 - b. The church will not grant permission for a stone that is not of the same type and cut as the Memorial, as per the original specification and design of the memorial.
 - c. The cost of work would be as agreed from time to time by the church with the stonemason (currently £2,000+VAT).
 - d. Individual carving will be charged at standard rate.
 - e. The church will apply a 50% uplift of the stonemason costs to help defray the expenses of the memorial.
 - f. This stone will be the property of the family (as are all other churchyard monuments) and part of the ledger agreement must state that only lettering as described in this policy will be used.

- g. Each additional inscription will also require a ledger agreement with these conditions.
25. It will be possible by arrangement to reserve a space for a second inscription, for instance spouses to be remembered together.
- a. Both inscriptions must be agreed and paid for at the time of request.
 - b. An additional charge may be made at the time of the second inscription to cover any increased costs.
 - c. Additional statutory fee and ledger agreement will apply to the second inscription.
 - d. Should the second inscription not be required monies paid will not be refunded and the PCC may at its discretion cause a decorative motif to be carved in that space, or the name and years of another individual.
26. Flowers or small pots may be left before the memorial, but no other mementoes or memorials can be left and no plants can be planted.
27. Flowers and pots will be periodically removed.

END

Indicative Costs as of 29-vi-2021

Statutory Fee:	£166
Servicing Fee (PCC):	£50
Carving inc. VAT (Stonmason):	£19.20

Indicative for 25 letters (15 letter name plus years): £166+50+480=£696

Average cost to family of ledger stone is c.£500 + 166 stat. fee.