

The Churchyard Regulations 2020 – a Summary

The Parochial Church Council of St Michael's would like to remind those with loved ones buried in the graveyard that the Churchyard Regulations of 2020, drawn up by St Albans Diocese must be followed.

The Regulations are intended to encourage good practices in order to maintain a place of peace, dignity and respect for the departed, as well as a haven for wildlife.

A brief summary of the regulations is below, and you can also find the full document on our website www.stmichaelsws.org.uk

1. In order to place a memorial in the churchyard you need to apply for permission to do so. Relatives should first consult a monumental mason who will know the Churchyard Regulations and will be able to submit the correct form to the Vicar for approval. No monument may be erected without approval.
2. Curbs and fences around graves are not allowed, and neither are chippings on graves. All of these things make mowing the churchyard grass difficult.
3. The planting of flowering annuals or bulbs on graves is encouraged but not shrubs or trees as these grow too large. This makes maintenance difficult and could lead to distress when we have to cut them down.
4. Fresh flowers are encouraged on graves. These may be removed by the PCC once they have died. Artificial flowers are not allowed. Please avoid using glass containers for flowers as these are potentially hazardous.
5. Mementoes, e.g. photographs, toys etc. should not be placed on graves. Neither should lights. These may be removed by the PCC.

These regulations are for the good of all and for the maintenance of a pleasant and peaceful environment for those who visit the churchyard. We appreciate your cooperation.

St Michael's PCC, November 2020