



The Parish of St Edmund,
Allestree



Burials & Interment of Ashes in St Edmund's Churchyard

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St Edmund's charity number is 1128942



Introduction

The Churchyard at St Edmund's is closed to burials, apart from those where the deceased is going into a family grave that has space for them. But it is open for the interment of ashes. The deceased must have either lived or died in the parish of St Edmund's, Allestree, or been on the electoral roll as a worshipper at the church.

We are happy to talk to anyone or their family about what they would like, please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions.

There are strict rules about how remains are dealt with in Church of England churchyards. Please note that ashes may only be **buried** in our churchyard, we cannot permit scattering of ashes. And memorials may only be erected in churchyards where remains have been buried. Please bear that in mind if you would like a memorial in the churchyard but are considering scattering ashes elsewhere.

Occasionally the ashes will go into a family grave, usually they go into the Memorial Garden on the north-east side of the church.



We are aware that not everyone follows these rules, but we would be very grateful if you would do so. We will keep the plots tidy (removing dead flowers), and reserve the right to move anything unsuitable. There is a working party of Friends who keep the churchyard tidy, and they would be glad of your support.

Except for the periods of Advent (the five weeks before Christmas) and Lent (the six weeks before Easter), there are always flowers in Church. Our flower co-ordinator would be happy to talk to you if you would like your loved one commemorated that way (perhaps on the anniversary of their death).

If you have any queries about the information in this leaflet, if you'd like to help with churchyard tidying, or wish to arrange a burial or interment, please contact Caroline Audley (Church Administrator) on steds.stmatts@outlook.com or 01332 552031.



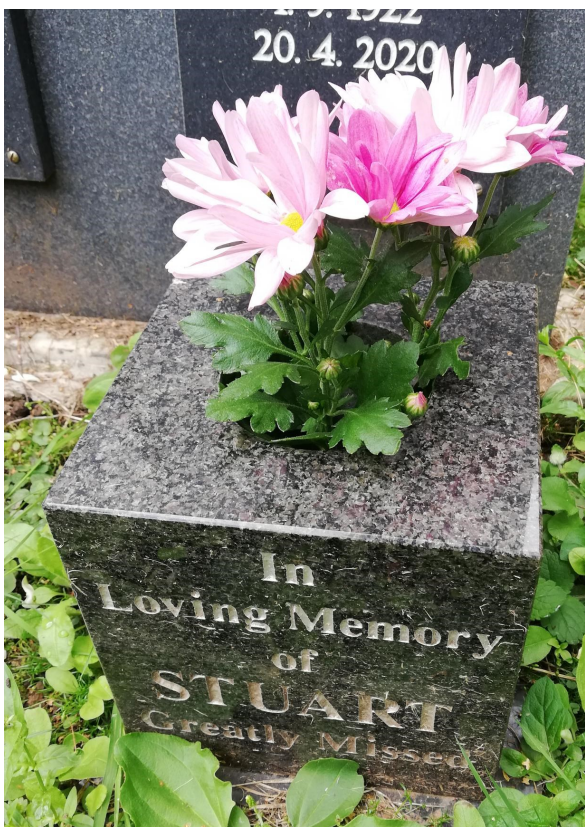
can be produced and erected. Any memorials placed without permission will be removed.

Flowers

Since we have six burials in front of each stone in the Memorial Garden, there is a need for everyone to respect other people's space. The rule is, please, just one unbreakable plant pot per space. The pot should be of no more than 7 inches in diameter, and it is not fair if flowers or other plants are larger than that.

We do not allow garden or other ornaments, artificial flowers, or written tributes and other memories. Remembrance poppies and Christmas wreaths are permitted, but they should be removed after a few weeks.

We do not allow glass or other breakable containers because of the hazard they present to wildlife and those keeping our churchyard tidy should they break. You might wish to consider buying a stone flower cube from the stonemason if you will be leaving flowers frequently. Removal of polythene wrappings from bunches of flowers is appreciated, it helps to keep the churchyard looking tidy and removes a potential hazard to wildlife.



On the day of the funeral

If the body is being buried in a family grave, which has been dug double depth, in the churchyard, it is usual that the funeral service takes place in the church and then we go out to the churchyard for the burial.

If, as is more usual, the body is to be cremated, committal takes place at the crematorium - sometimes after a service there, or after a service in church (and please do feel welcome to use your parish church even if the deceased was not a regular church attendee). Usually, the funeral directors will collect the ashes for you, store them carefully, and then deliver them to the church office prior to interment. On some occasions the family wish to keep and bring them. They are accompanied by a certificate confirming they are the ashes of your loved one, which needs to be handed to the administrator or the minister taking the interment service.

The Interment of ashes

The earliest interment of ashes could take place is 48 hours after cremation, but many families prefer to wait longer - until friends and relations can gather again, or they feel ready for this final step. The date of the interment must be arranged with the church office, so we can find a mutually agreeable time. We discourage the use of caskets or wooden boxes - much easier simply to put the ashes into the hole.

If you have another family member already buried here, the ashes can be buried in their grave. Otherwise, they go into the Memorial Garden.

Some families like to come to a normal Sunday morning service and then go out together to the churchyard; others prefer to meet with just their family and friends; others prefer not to be present. A hole will have been dug before you arrive, and the ashes will be poured in at a point during the short service - it lasts about 5-10 minutes. After we leave, the hole will be filled in and turf replaced. At some point in the future, the ashes of a next of kin can be interred in the same place.

Memorials in the Memorial Garden

If the ashes have been interred in the Memorial Garden, a few weeks later the full name and dates of the deceased are placed on a tablet on the stone. We insist that we always use the same mason and put the same details on for everyone.



Memorials for ashes on existing graves

If the ashes have been interred in a family grave and there is room on the memorial stone, additions may be made to an inscription, but approval is required, and the wording must be consistent with the original inscription.

In the event there is insufficient space on the existing gravestone, there are two options.

A. If it's decided that a fresh gravestone is required which will have the same wording as before but smaller, with the addition of the fresh inscription, this is treated in the Churchyard Regulations as a

completely new gravestone. It is therefore subject to the same restrictions as any other gravestone. If a faculty permission was needed for the original, it will be needed again for the replacement and fees will be chargeable for this fresh application.

B. If a fresh gravestone is not required, a flat slab no bigger than 40cm by 40cm, laid just below the ground, is the only marker permitted for cremated remains. Open books, sloping plaques and headstones cannot be selected, even though there are others in the churchyard.

While you may have permission to add to a family grave, the plot does not actually belong to you. The churchyard belongs to the Diocese of Derby, therefore Diocesan regulations must be adhered to when choosing a memorial to mark your interment. This is to ensure the churchyard is in keeping with its Christian history and that it is safe.

Please consult a copy of the Churchyard Regulations before making your choice of material or design, to avoid needing to rethink if choices are not permitted. Vicars have limited jurisdiction on what they can agree to. You may find these regulations here: <https://derby.anglican.org/en/church-admin/resources-for-churchwardens/churchyard-regulations.html>

If your choice is not within the permitted regulations you will need to apply for a faculty, explaining what you wish for and giving a reason why this should be agreed. The Diocesan Chancellor adjudicates in these cases. Please be aware that there is a fee for each faculty application and there is no guarantee of success.

Once you have decided on your memorial, in consultation with the funeral director or stonemason, they will write to the church for authorisation. Alterations may be requested before the memorial