

## Parish of Nursling with Rownhams GRAVESTONE POLICY

When you come to consider choosing a gravestone for your loved one after a burial, please could you be aware of our present policy following the local Church of England guidance. The aim is to preserve the character of the churchyard, so that what is placed there is of good design and harmonises with the surroundings and, in some cases, for everyone's safety as well. We will be pleased to help with any questions you may have.

**Upright headstones** should be

- No more than 4 feet (1200mm) high (measured from the surface of the ground), or less than 2 feet 6 inches (750mm) high (measured from the surface of the ground);
- No more than 3 feet (900mm) wide, or less than 1 foot 8 inches (500mm) wide;
- No more than 6 inches (150mm) thick, or less than 3 inches (75mm) thick, except in the case of slate memorials which may be thinner, but no less than 1.5 inches (38mm) thick.

For a child, the headstone may be smaller, but should be no less than 2 feet (600mm) high, 1 foot 3 inches (375mm) wide and 2 inches (50mm) thick.

**Horizontal stones or ledgers** should be

- No larger than 7 feet (2100mm) by 3 feet (900mm), including the base. They may be either flush with the ground, set at a slight angle to enable rainwater to run off, or raised not more than 9 inches (225mm).
- Any base should extend no more than 3 inches (75mm) all round and itself be flush with the turf.

**Headstones** may be of three types:-

- (a) So shaped that they can be inserted directly into the ground at sufficient depth to ensure stability;
- b) On an integral base, no more than 9 inches (225mm) high, 3 feet (900mm) wide or projecting 4 inches (100mm) in any direction;
- c) On a vase base, no more than 4 inches (100mm) on either side; the base being no more than 1 foot 3 inches (375mm) front to back.

Headstones do not have to be rectangular, and curved tops are preferable to straight edged ones. Please note that memorials in the shape of a **heart** or **open book**, or **kerbstones**, are no longer allowed.

The preferred **types of stone** are: Light grey Granite (eggshell finish), Roman stone (Nabresina), York, Purbeck and Portland.

Those **not** allowed include: Highly polished or mirror finishes; blue or red granite and granites darker than Rustenburg grey; Carrara white or similar marble; synthetic stone or plastic.

This is so that the materials used harmonise as well as possible with the church building and its setting.

**Inscriptions** should be incised into the stone or carved in relief.

Lettering may be painted for clarity and we accept the following **colours**: matt white and matt black, grey, brown and silver.

The inscription can simply be the name of the deceased and date, but additional information about the person, and/or a small and well-carved motif, may also be added at the Vicar's discretion. Any wording must be simple and reverent.

**To help us keep the Churchyard as safe and pleasant as possible:**

Please try to remove wreaths and flowers once they look withered.

Please do not use glass or china containers, which break easily and become dangerous.

Please remove Remembrance Day poppies and Christmas wreaths after a couple of months.

Usually, other items (e.g. mementoes, statues, keepsakes) are not allowed, except in exceptional circumstances with the Vicar's express permission.

Please note that we reserve the right to remove items that do not comply with this policy.