

The interment of ashes  
at  
St Nicolas Church  
Great Bookham



Deciding the final resting place of your loved ones remains is a very important decision and we are pleased that you are considering St Nicolas churchyard.

Please read this leaflet carefully to be sure that this is the right decision for you and your family.

Cremated remains, commonly known as 'ashes', are always interred in a churchyard (placed into the ground) rather than scattered on the surface. In our churchyard they can be interred in one of two places:

**An existing family grave or memorial plot** in the churchyard. This is usually possible, depending on previous burials.

or

**The New Garden of Remembrance** at the rear of the churchyard, a peaceful, grassed area set aside for this purpose.



## Interments in the Garden of Remembrance

In the Garden of Remembrance the ashes are interred directly into the ground, without a container, urn or casket. These may not be buried in the Garden of Remembrance. This is a much greener and environmentally sensitive approach and recommended by the Church of England.

Once the turf is replaced there will be no marker or tablet marking the plot but we do keep a very careful record of where each plot is in case you should wish to add further ashes at some point.

No individual memorials are allowed but if you wish, you may have the name of your loved one inscribed on the Memorial Plinths in the New Garden of Remembrance and/or in the Book of Remembrance inside the church. Please see the details below. Flowers may be placed by the memorial stone in the garden.



## **Interments in a family grave**

It is normally possible to inter ashes into an existing family grave in the churchyard. You will be asked to confirm that this is the wish of all the family and that no one objects to this additional burial.

Ashes interred into graves can be done directly without a container, which is by far the most environmentally sensitive approach, or they may be placed in a small natural biodegradable casket, usually wood or wicker.

It is often possible to have an inscription added to the existing headstone, or a new tablet may be placed flat on the grave. You should arrange this with a stonemason directly, but any alterations or additions of this kind must be approved by the Rector, and follow the churchyard rules laid down by the Diocese of Guildford.

Ours is an ancient country churchyard and to preserve the appearance of the churchyard, and its enjoyment by all those who visit, there are very strict rules about the design and lettering of headstones and what can and can't be placed on graves. Statues, silk flowers, ornaments, wind chimes, toys, photographs etc are not permitted. Neither are large plants and shrubs. Fresh flowers, however, are always welcome.

Please do be aware of this before deciding to inter your loved one in the churchyard. For further details of the churchyard regulations please contact the parish office.

## **The interment service.**

It is not required but generally most people like to have a minister from the church conduct a short service at the interment. This will take place at the graveside or in the garden of remembrance and last around 5 – 10 minutes. It consists of a bible reading, some prayers and the words of committal. The minister taking the service will contact you beforehand to discuss any particular choices you may have.

We will need the ashes delivered to the parish office along with the certificate of cremation a few days before the interment so they can be prepared by the minister.

On the day the ashes are placed into a metal container which enables them to be safely carried to the interment plot and to be securely released into the ground at the appropriate point in the service.

Usually the number of attendees is quite small, often just close family, but can be more if you wish.

## **How much does it cost?**

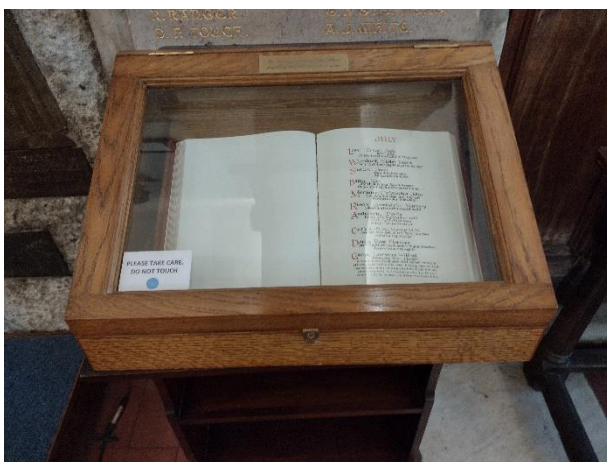
The Church of England fee for an interment is £226. There is an additional charge for inscribing a name on the Memorial Plinths or in the Book of Remembrance. Please see the following pages.

## Remembering your loved one.

We have Memorial Plinths in the New Garden of Remembrance and a Book of Remembrance in the church to enable families to record their loved ones name. Both of these are optional and are an extra cost in addition to the interment fee.

### The Book of Remembrance in Church

The Book of Remembrance is kept on display in St Nicolas church and has pages devoted to each month of the year. Entries are professionally inscribed in black, with capital letters in red and are laid out so that all names are written: surname, first name(s). We suggest that the wording should be equivalent to what you would have put on a grave stone. The actual date of death could also be included. The cost of an entry is approximately £30.00 per line.



## The Memorial Plinths

There are three large stone plinths in our New Garden of Remembrance which already have a number of names inscribed on them. If a loved one has been interred in the New Garden of Remembrance then the family can opt to have their name added to the plinth. Names are listed under the year of interment (not under the year of death). Please note there is no room on the plinth for individual dates of birth or death. The cost is approximately £15 per letter (including VAT) and the maximum number of letters is eighteen.



Any decision about having an entry on the Plinths and/or in the Book can be deferred until the year after the interment. We contact all the families whose loved ones have been interred in a given calendar year at the beginning of the following year to ask if they want to have entries made.

Thank you for taking the time to read this leaflet. If you would like your loved one's remains to be interred in our churchyard please contact our parish office who will make all the arrangements for you.

The churchyard is always open if you would like to walk around and see the New Garden of Remembrance before deciding. The church is normally open during daylight hours and you are welcome to enter, take time to reflect and pray, perhaps light a candle in memory of your loved one.

If you would like to talk to someone about your bereavement, we have a team of pastoral visitors who would be very happy to offer you support. They can be contacted through the parish office.

We have a twice yearly memorial service, in May and November, which anyone bereaved at any time is welcome to attend and remember their loved one.

We hope that you will find this a peaceful and hopeful place to visit and to remember those you have loved.

To arrange an interment or for any questions please contact:

[office@stnicolasbookham.org.uk](mailto:office@stnicolasbookham.org.uk)

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