

NORHAM CHURCHYARD RULES

GENERAL

1. The surface of the churchyard shall be kept level as far as possible and free from grave mounds in order to facilitate grass cutting.
2. Every application to erect or place anything whatsoever or do any works in the churchyard shall be made in writing in the first place to the Vicar, stating a full description of the proposed designs, measurements, inscriptions and like particulars. In any case where the authority of a faculty is required application shall be made to the registrar of the Diocese.
3. Nothing shall be erected or placed in the churchyard until such proposals have received the consent of the Vicar in writing or until a faculty has been received.

MONUMENTS

4. The Vicar will normally be able to sanction the erection of the following classes of monuments without authority of a faculty:
 - (a) simple vertical headstones not exceeding 4 feet in height;
 - (b) simple crosses not exceeding 3 feet high;

provided always that such monuments shall be made of natural stone quarried in Great Britain.

DECORATIONS

5. Bulbs and small annual plants may be planted in the soil of any grave provided that no grass is removed and the ground is kept level.
6. Stone vases or flowerpots may be kept on any grave provided that the material complies with Rule 4.
7. Glass, china or metal vases or flowerpots may be placed on any grave provided that the same are sunk into the soil so that the material is virtually invisible and when empty does not hinder grass cutting.
8. Wreaths and cut flowers not in wrappings may be laid directly on any grave or kept in vases or flowerpots as above, subject to those persons deputed to care for the day-to-day upkeep and maintenance of the churchyard being allowed to remove the same when they appear to be withered or dead.

SPECIFIC EXCEPTIONS

9. Monuments in the shape of books, statues or comprising kerbs, with or without chippings or railings or chains to enclose the grave space, shall not be allowed.

LEGAL RESERVATIONS

10. The above rules shall take effect subject always to any licences, faculties, decrees, orders or regulations, whether particular or general, which may be made and issued from time to time by the chancellor or the Consistory Court of the Diocese.
11. Inasmuch as the ultimate care and control of the churchyard is the responsibility of the Ordinary exercised by the chancellor in the Consistory Court of the Diocese, but by reason that the court does not seek to exercise jurisdiction in straightforward uncontroversial matters of day-to-day management of the churchyard, the written consent of the Vicar is by custom sufficient authority in all such cases, that is to say, cases permitted by Rules 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8 above, providing that the Vicar gives consent in writing.
12. In all cases not covered by Rules 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8 above, or where there is controversy, or where for any reason the Vicar shall have declined to give consent to any proposal, the applicant shall be required to obtain the authority of a faculty.
13. The Vicar, Churchwardens, Parochial Church Council, their agents, employees and others engaged in the maintenance of the churchyard shall not be responsible for the repair, maintenance, protection of any flowers, bulbs, plants, vases, monuments or other objects placed in the churchyard.

EXTENT AND OPERATION

14. These rules shall come into force on the 1st day of January, 2000, and remain effective until revoked, and shall apply to the churchyard of the parish of Norham.

BY ORDER OF THE
PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL.

NORHAM CHURCHYARD

RIGHTS OF BURIAL

Burial in the churchyard is available to

- i) those living in the Parish*,
- ii) those who die in the Parish,
- iii) those with a spouse buried in the churchyard,
- iv) parishioners who have moved out of the Parish into care,
- v) those on the church electoral roll and their spouses.

Note: 'parish' refers to the parish area as defined by the Church of England, not the civil parish of Norham.

SPECIFIC EXCEPTIONS

Because of limited space, burial in the churchyard shall not be available on the basis of family connections other than those listed above.

EXTENT AND OPERATION

15. These rules shall come into force on the 1st day of January, 2000, and remain effective until revoked, and shall apply to the churchyard of the parish of Norham.

BY ORDER OF THE
PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL.

Please note that the PCC resolved in 1997, after discussion with other parishes in the Deanery, that when it is requested that a collection at a funeral service be given to a charity, a proportion will be retained by the church to help towards the cost of maintenance of the church and churchyard.

RECORD OF INSCRIPTIONS ON MONUMENTS

A file recording inscriptions on tombstones can be found on the cupboard just inside the entrance to the church.

REGISTERS OF BAPTISMS, MARRIAGES AND FUNERALS

Only current registers are kept in the church. Those wishing to refer to earlier records should contact the Diocesan Records at

Woodhorn
Museum, Archives and Country Park
Queen Elizabeth II Country Park
Ashington.
Northumberland
NE639YF
Telephone Number: 01670 528 080
Email: collections@woodhorn.org.uk