

WELCOME TO OUR CHURCHYARD

We are deeply sorry about the death of your much loved family member and are glad you have asked for a Christian burial for them in our beautiful churchyard.

A Churchyard is a very special sacred place in which to be buried and we do our best to ensure it remains a quiet, respectful, dignified, simple and beautiful place in which to remember loved ones, to visit and spend time in reflection.

We are also committed to maintaining, protecting and enhancing our churchyards as valuable conservation areas, of ecological importance. Many parts of the churchyard are not cut regularly in order to promote wildlife and encourage the growth of natural wild flowers and plants. Moths, butterflies, bees, slow worms, frogs, and many other insects and animals thrive in our churchyards and we are doing our best to increase the habitat that suits them.

There are very strict rules in the Church of England about what can or cannot be done in a churchyard in terms of how graves are kept. Historically this churchyard was not always looked after properly or within the rules and you may see examples of things you now cannot and are not allowed to do. A new policy was introduced in May 2021 and the policy and rules have been applied since that date.

This is a short summary of what you can do:

- You can visit as often as you wish when you wish;
- You can apply for a headstone to mark the grave;
- You can and are encouraged to plant wildflowers, or scatter seeds on the grave, or plant bulbs or small native perennial plants;

- You can keep the grave itself cut and tidy, and maintain a narrow cut path around it;
- You can have a vase or small urn for fresh flowers (please dispose of old flowers in the compost area/bin);
- You can place one or two small, discrete (non-plastic) mementoes on the grave should you wish to, but they need to be properly secured to prevent them from blowing about.

You are asked to avoid using any plastic or artificial flowers or mementoes as these do not biodegrade and are very harmful to the environment.

This is a short summary of what you cannot do:

- You cannot put a kerb, and edging or a fence around the grave;
- You cannot place permanent cards or photographs on the grave or headstone;
- You cannot decorate the grave with any stones/chippings/ artificial surfaces or materials;
- Please avoid any mementoes that include lights or anything that chimes or sparkles as whilst you may love them, other families may find them upsetting.

We reserve the right to remove anything that is not allowed, but only after extensive efforts to contact you and discuss it. Anything we remove will be kept safely for you to collect.

If you want to discuss anything in relation to this leaflet and policy please speak to the priest who has taken your service of burial OR contact either the Churchwarden (names on display in the church) or the Team Rector and Priest in Charge via the Team Office:
office.bvtm@gmail.com 01986 875941/07752 275328

This Policy is a local interpretation of the National and Diocesan legal rules for Churchyards. The detailed churchyard rules are displayed in the church porch or on a notice board for your inspection.

If you feel strongly that you wish to do something outside the rules please contact the Team Rector/Priest in Charge in the first instance to discuss your request.

Signed:



Revd Jane Held; Assistant Curate

Date: 20th April 2021



**The Blyth Valley Team
Ministry
and
Heveningham with Ubbeston,
Huntingfield and Cookley**

CHURCHYARD RULES

