



The Parish of Silchester

Benefice of Tadley with Pamber Heath and Silchester,
Rector: Steve McKay
The Rectory, The Green, Tadley, RG26 3PB
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Regulations for interring ashes in the memorial garden.

The memorial garden in Silchester graveyard was created in October 2015. It is expected that the garden will hold 135 plots, and our desire is to keep the garden tidy, tranquil and attractive - a place for bereaved families and visitors to the graveyard to enjoy and find comfort. The demand for places of burial is high, and space is limited, but with care and planning this Garden should enable us to bury local people for 20 - 40 years.

To make best use of this space and preserve the appearance of this garden, we require all burials of ashes and memorial tablets to comply with these regulations:

1. All new burials of ashes will take place in the memorial garden.
2. No burials of ashes will be allowed without a funeral director supervising.
3. Plots may not be reserved, and will be allocated by the PCC according to the next available plot.
4. Each plot is approx 50cm by 50cm. The maximum casket size is 30cm x 30cm. The **maximum stone memorial tablet is 35cm by 35cm**. Burials should take place in the centre of the plot.
5. Every burial must be marked with a memorial stone tablet or wood cross.
6. Standard plots may contain 2 caskets of ashes, and may be excavated to a depth of 60cm.
7. Ashes may be buried without a casket, provided they have a memorial tablet. A standard plot may contain up to 4 sets of ashes if they are not in a casket.
8. Memorial tablets may be cut from the following types of stone only:
Limestone – Portland, Purbeck, Derbyshire, York, Hopton, Nabresina, French, Portuguese;
Slate – Light Grey, Blue/Black, Green; **Granite** – Light Grey, Blue or Rustenburg
9. Memorial Tablets **may not** contain flower vases, or raised surfaces. Lettering on memorial tablets may be painted.
10. Funeral directors are responsible for:
 - ascertaining the precise location of the plot allocated,
 - following these instructions when digging plots: **The methodology should be to scrape the slate aside over an area greater than the allocated space, dig out the limestone and set this aside, dig out the soil and set this aside, then replace in reverse order. The spare soil should go to the area the other side of the hedge which is already set aside for excavations from the burials.**
 - After back filling the plot, allowing earth to settle before installing the memorial tablet
 - ensuring the approval of the Rector before a tablet is cut or installed
 - installing memorial tablets flush with the surface of the memorial garden.
11. Relatives may not add temporary memorials to the memorial gardens (e.g soft toys, plant pots, solar lights, photos). Only fresh, cut flowers will be allowed. These will be cleared as soon as they look unsightly.
12. The layout of the Garden is shown on the attached page. The spaces are numbered on a grid system from 1.1 to 15.9, and will be used consecutively.

We hope that these regulations will enable everybody to remember with dignity lost loved ones in our beautiful graveyard for generations to come.

Rector: Rev Steve McKay, St. Mary's Vicarage, Bishopswood Road, Tadley, RG26 4HQ
Resident priest: [Rev Karen West, St Marys House, 10 Romans Field, Silchester. RG7 2QH](#)

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