

STOKE ST MICHAEL PARISH COUNCIL CEMETERY RULES

1. The Cemetery is owned and managed by Stoke St Michael Parish Council; the Cemetery remains consecrated land. These rules are authorised by the Parish Council and may only be changed by the Parish Council. All users of the Cemetery are required to comply with the Cemetery rules.

MANAGEMENT

2. The Cemetery will be managed by the Burial Clerk, Mrs Kate Egan. All enquiries relating to the Cemetery should be forwarded to the Burial Clerk at Uphill Cottage, Church Street, Croscombe, Somerset, BA5 3QS

TIMES

3. Funerals will be arranged for daylight hours after 10am and before 4pm, and not on Sundays or Bank Holidays.

ALLOCATION OF PLOTS

4. Applications for burials should be made to the Burial Clerk. The cemetery land will remain in the ownership of the Parish Council. Spaces above family members (in graves deep enough) may be re-opened. In some plots, it may be difficult to accommodate more than one. The Cemetery Clerk will keep a plan of the cemetery and will allocate all plots.
5. The re-opening of a grave already buried in, for the interment of another body will normally only be permitted for close family members.

CREMATIONS

6. Application to inter ashes (subject to space) should be made by contacting the Clerk. Ashes may be interred in an existing grave.
7. Ashes should preferably be put in the ground in a container.
8. Inscribed plaques made to a maximum size of 450mm x 400mm will be permitted. They should be set in the ground level with the surface of the turf.

HEADSTONES

9. **Headstones** (including any plinth) should be no more than 1200mm (4') high above ground, 900mm (3') wide and 180mm (7") thick and no less than 750mm (2'6") high above ground, 500mm (1'8") wide and 75mm (3") thick and should not be erected within 1200mm (4') of the outer wall of the church.
10. Stones shall preferably be sunk 300mm below ground without any plinth and founded on a horizontal slab, or secured to a plinth projecting no more than 50mm on a horizontal slab set below the turf.
11. **Crosses** no more than 1200mm (4') high above ground are acceptable

12. **Monuments** should be of natural wood or natural stone. Local building stone or stones similar to local stone are preferred. Black and pearl granite, white marble, synthetic stone and plastic are not permitted. Stone shall not be mirror polished
13. A monument should not include any raised kerbs, railing, stone or other chippings, picture or photograph, built-in vase container, statuary or bird bath. All monuments shall be simple in shape. Minor mementoes (2 maximum) may be permitted with prior permission from the Cemetery Clerk. No colour shall be introduced except, black, white or gold.
14. No advertisement or trade mark is permitted on any monument, but the name of the mason may be incised on the side or reverse in unpainted and unleaded letters no more than 13mm high.
15. Application to erect headstones must be submitted on the appropriate form to the Priest and Cemetery Clerk, together with scale drawings showing the material, form and dimensions of the headstone and copy of the proposed inscription. No headstone may be erected without the written permission from the Priest.
16. One stone vase per grave is permitted, separate from the headstone and not exceeding 300mm x 200mm x 200mm (12" x 8" x 6") in height. No glass or pottery items are permitted.
17. Horizontal ledger (over burials) shall be just below the level of the turf. The maximum size is 2100mm (7") x 900mm (3") and the minimum is 1200 (4') by 600mm (2').
18. No shrubs or trees may be planted without permission from the Parish Council. Any tree or shrub may be trimmed or removed by the Parish Council if not cared for. Some bedding plants may be planted in a limited area on the grave so as not to inhibit the maintenance between the plots and they must be removed at the end of the season. This must be discussed with the Cemetery Clerk beforehand. All dead flowers, wreathes, trimmings or other refuse must be taken away or placed in the dustbin by the churchyard gate.

MAINTENANCE

19. Relatives are responsible for maintaining headstones and other decorations. The Parish Council may remove or repair any item not kept in good repair one month after the last known contact has been notified.
20. Graves are to be filled so as to become level in due course.

Approved: