

Holy Trinity, Crockham Hill - Churchyard Policy

(in compliance with Diocese of Rochester Churchyard Regulations, 1981)

We are privileged and pleased to have a churchyard here, which can be widely enjoyed, which can provide a place of peace and reflection, and which can offer a resting-place for loved ones, confident in the Christian hope and the care of God. We are grateful to all those who help with its maintenance. We hope that the information in this Churchyard Policy will be helpful to all and ask that its provisions will be duly followed.

The churchyard is a place for all

- All memorials should be in keeping with those around them.
- Any proposal for a memorial must be submitted in writing and agreed by the vicar.
- The permanent planting of ornamental shrubs and trees is not permitted without written permission by the vicar and PCC.

The vicar and PCC reserve the right to remove any modifications to grave sites that have not been approved in writing by the vicar and PCC.

God's Acre

- Use of pesticides and herbicides are restricted within the churchyard.
- The churchyard provides an opportunity to provide a range of habitats and to encourage the diversity of wild-life within a pesticide-free meadow environment.

The vicar and PCC believe that allowing plants to flower and seed and to encourage the proliferation of wild-life is a symbol of hope in new life and God's gift of resurrection.

Maintenance

Areas of the churchyard are mown at differing intervals. The policy is to retain the aesthetic appearance of the churchyard whilst providing a haven for wildlife.

- Some areas are regularly close mown whilst others may be regularly high-mown.
- Certain areas are only strimmed in mid-July and then finally mown in mid-October.
- *All* path edges are regularly close mown with graduated cutting towards the 'meadow-style' areas.
- Self-seeded unplanned tree saplings are removed.

The vicar and PCC reserves the right to remove any 'temporary' pots and vases left on a gravesite in order to facilitate regular mowing. These may be reclaimed from an area near the maintenance shed.