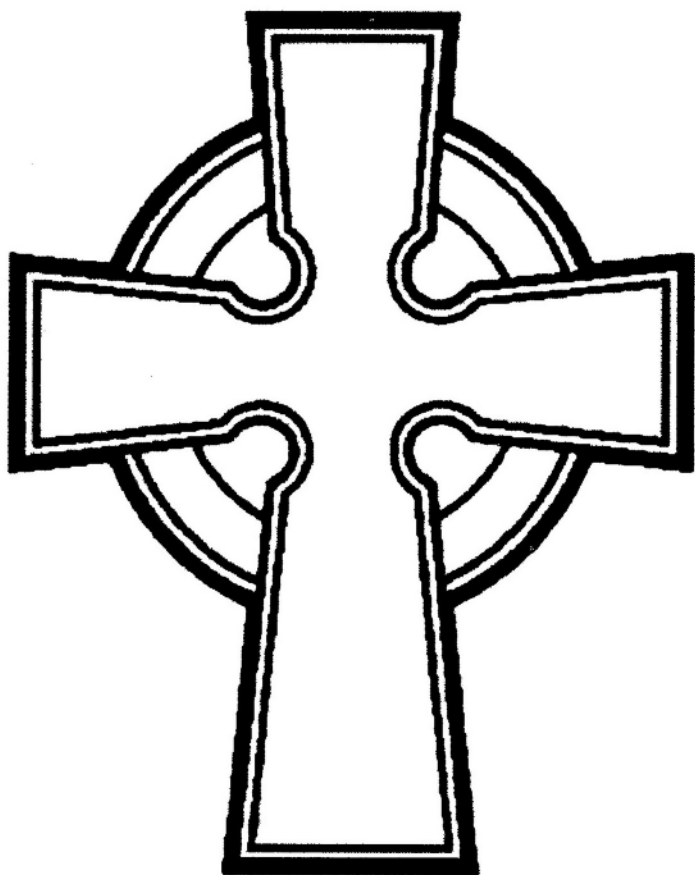


# St. Mary's Churchyard Rules



**St. Mary's PCC** (Parochial Church Council) understands how important it is for our burial ground to be managed as a suitable environment for relatives and visitors to pay respect to their departed loved ones.

Alongside this, we must consider the needs of those who maintain the churchyard.

**Formal planting.** As this is a rural churchyard, we cannot permit formal planting and landscaping such as trees, bushes and shrubs, and planted annual and perennial flowers. The grave should not take on a cultivated or garden appearance, as we aim to maintain this space in keeping with its surroundings.

**The decoration of graves** (and the surrounding area).

We do not allow soft toys, ornaments, wind-chimes and unauthorised boundary markers. These may serve to commemorate the deceased in an individualistic way which may bring comfort to the family concerned, but can appear out of place for others, detracting from the intended ambience of the burial ground.

**Floral tributes** must be removed by the families who brought them, but ultimately may need to be removed by St. Mary's PCC members when their purpose has been served.

Cut flowers may be laid on the grave.

**Integral receptacle for flowers.** The design of a memorial may include an integral flower receptacle in which fresh cut flowers may stand. In this case it should be flush with the top of the base.

Where there is no receptacle, cut flowers may be placed in a removable container. This container must be recessed completely into the ground, so that when not in use there is no obstruction to churchyard maintenance.

A separate free-standing flower vase or container standing on the surface of or near the grave is not permitted.

Spring bulbs may be placed in the soil of any grave.

Traditional Easter and Christmas wreaths and Remembrance Day poppies are permitted, but these as with all flowers and tributes must be removed after a period of not more than a month, and taken home as our facility for disposal is limited.

Silk flowers are permitted, but will be removed when they become faded, dishevelled or discoloured.

Plastic artificial flowers **are not** allowed due to their negative environmental impact.

### **Metal Mesh Guards.**

Whilst it is understood that relatives may like to protect fresh flowers from pests, protective railings or wire mesh are subject to the following size limits. The maximum width is the width of the headstone, the maximum length allowed from the headstone is 10" or 200mm. The maximum height allowed is 12" or 300mm.

This is to maintain space for grass cutting, to respect neighbouring graves, and maintain the overall rural and natural appearance of the grave yard. All such installations must be coloured black and should be agreed with the PCC prior to installation. If they are not kept tidy and /or fall out of use, the PCC reserves the right to remove them without notice.