

**LILLINGTON PARISH CHURCH**  
St. Mary Magdalene

# THE CHURCHYARD



The churchyard at St. Mary Magdalene's is a beautiful, tranquil space, used by many people in our community as a place to think, to reflect and to remember loved ones. It has a rich diversity of flora and fauna, with some areas deliberately being less managed, so they become wildlife havens.

## Burials

We are a closed churchyard. This means that we do not do any burials in new graves. However, we do continue to do burials where the deceased is to be interred in an existing grave that was initially dug to double depth. This will be indicated in our church records. If the existing grave is not recorded as being double depth, we cannot re-open it. It is

usually the case that a double depth grave is reopened in order to bury a close family member such as a spouse or a child. However, exceptions can be made to this, as long as the family of the person originally buried in the plot approves.

## Interment of ashes

There is still a small amount of space available for interment of ashes into new plots in the churchyard. The following people can normally have their ashes interred in the churchyard of St. Mary Magdalene's church, Lillington:

- 1) Anyone living in the ecclesiastical parish of Lillington at their time of death.
- 2) Anyone who lived in the ecclesiastical parish of Lillington until moving to a nursing/care home outside of the parish.
- 3) Anyone who was a church member (on the electoral roll) at the time of their death.

In addition, we also try to make provision for interring ashes of people who did not live in the parish or worship at the church at the time of their death, but who have other family members buried in the churchyard. In these cases, the ashes of the deceased may be interred in the grave or interment plot of a family member. Ashes can be interred either in a casket, or poured loose into the ground.

## Memorials

There are strict guidelines for memorials in churchyards. Full details of these can be obtained from the church office. However, your stone mason should be able to guide you initially on what is allowed. All new memorials must be approved by the church before placement, and a fee is payable, details of which can be obtained from the church office. As a general rule:

- Stones in the ashes plots must be no more than 12 by 18 inches (portrait or landscape) and must be placed flush to the ground. Stones cannot be coloured, and built in flower vases are no longer allowed.
- Memorials on graves should be a headstone only.
- No photos are allowed on memorials and any pictures must be Christian symbols, such as a cross or a dove.

## Maintenance of graves and ashes plots

We try to keep our churchyard looking beautiful for everyone to enjoy. This takes time and money and so we really appreciate people keeping to the following guidelines.

**Graves:** Please do not dig up the grass, plant anything in the grass, or put any edging around the grave area, and please try and keep flowers, wreaths etc on the base of the headstone, so that they do not impede mowing.

**Ashes plots:** Please try not to place more than one item on the stone at any time. Don't dig up the grass around the stone, put edgings around the stone or plant anything in the grass. Anything that is not completely flush with the ground should be moveable.

The church reserves the right to remove anything that contravenes these guidelines.

## **Upkeep costs**

It costs the members of St. Mary Magdalene's around £2500 a year to keep the churchyard in good order. Most of this money comes from that given by regular churchgoers in the collection plate.

We therefore welcome one off or annual donations towards churchyard maintenance.

### **Contact us**

For further information please contact the church office. Office hours are Monday-Thursday, 9am – 1pm.

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