

## Shere Lower Graveyard Regulations

First and foremost the graveyard and all graves within it must comply with the Guildford Diocesan Churchyard Regulations 2022

The Regulations state that the churchyard needs to be a place where people can be quiet, remember and pray without the distraction of things that are unsightly or inappropriate

The overall plan for the Graveyard is that the graves should be capable of being mown over and there should be nothing solid (structures or large plants) which interferes with the maintenance of the graveyard.

There is much detail in the Regulations ( particularly in relation to size of memorials and inscriptions) but below are some of the more important areas that individuals need to take particular note of:-

### Memorials

**ALL** memorials (**ALL WITHOUT EXCEPTION**) require the authorisation of the Rector **IN WRITING** and **BEFORE** any work is undertaken. Formal permission on a form CR1 is **ALWAYS** required for any memorial.

Headstones (weathering natural stone or slate or hardwood) should not be finished with a polished or reflecting surface. They are not allowed to be black, dark grey or red.

The wording on any headstone is closely controlled by the Regulations and must be approved in advance by the Rector

Horizontal ledgers, raised kerbs, railings, and stone and other chippings are not permitted

## **Plants and Flowers**

Trees and shrubs are not permitted.

The only plants which may be planted in the soil are bulbs and small annual plants. In addition plants or flowers may be placed in a removable sunken container. There is no provision for plants in pots to be placed on the grave.

Wreaths or cut flowers may be laid directly on any grave or placed in a vase authorised by the regulations. If a built in vase ceases to be used for a period of 12 months or more the PCC may insert a matching stone stopper in the vase hole.

Artificial flowers of good quality may also be placed on a grave at the discretion of the Rector and PCC, but as both natural and artificial flowers will deteriorate over time the PCC may remove flowers or wreaths which they consider to be unsightly. All artificial flowers must be removed after two months.

**REMEMBER VIRTUALLY EVERYTHING REQUIRES FORMAL CONSENT  
IN WRITING FROM THE RECTOR IN ADVANCE – PLEASE ALWAYS  
CHECK WITH HIM FIRST IF YOU ARE UNSURE**