



St Thomas Ashton-in-Makerfield

Churchyard Regulations

The PCC have adopted the Diocese of Liverpool Churchyard Regulations 2014 to ensure that our graveyards are places of reverence and respect.

This leaflet contains only a brief summary of those points which are considered most relevant and so please check the regulations on the church website, www.stthomasstluke.org.uk, for anything that is not mentioned in this leaflet.

Garden of Rest

All arrangements for the burial of ashes must be made through St Thomas' Church.

The names of all those whose ashes are buried in the Garden of Rest are written in the memorial book in church. Regretfully no monuments are allowed in the Garden of Rest. However, if there is room in the borders a rose may be brought for the gardener to plant in memory of your loved one. You are welcome to place **fresh flowers** on the lawns having removed the wrappers first. These floral tributes must be removed when the flowers are dead. Other forms of floral arrangements or other tributes for example plastic flowers are not permitted. Any monuments or other items that are not allowed will be removed.

Graveyards

Memorial stones can be installed by a stone mason at the head of graves, often on a small plinth, but they **must be approved by the vicar beforehand** and be in accordance with the specification contained in the regulations. A small simple wooden cross (no more than 18 inches high by 12 inches across) may be used as an alternative.

Flowers in the graveyards

Wreaths and floral tributes may be laid upon a grave and cut flowers arranged in metal or stone vases placed on the memorial plinth. If there is no plinth, a vase may be sunk into the ground below ground level so as not to impede a mower when not containing flowers.

Flowers and wreaths should be removed from the graves once they are wilted or dead as should faded silk flowers.

The following are not permitted in the graveyards:

- glass, ceramic or plastic containers for flowers
- plastic flowers
- the creation of a 'garden' of any kind
- the placing of new side stones or any mock fencing around a grave
- the use of any kind of artificial grass
- the introduction of marble 'chip' stones
- the placing of **any** object on the grave, other than flowers, without the written permission from St Thomas.

Why do we have these rules?

We work hard to make our graveyards special places where you will feel close to God and your loved ones, and we want to keep them well maintained. Our aim is to keep all the grassed areas neat and tidy and mowing in straight lines gives the best finish. When objects are placed in front of or around headstones mowing becomes much more difficult and time consuming.

Maintenance of your grave plot is entirely your responsibility and not that of St Thomas Church. Please do take this responsibility seriously as the state of the Churchyard depends on this.

We are aware that much of the ground in the Heath Road graveyard is uneven and we do have an ongoing improvement plan.

If you have any questions or queries regarding a grave or the information in this leaflet, then please ring 01942 727275.