

## Parish Church of St Mary the Virgin, Plumtree

### **Churchyard Policy**

(Based on the the Diocesan Guidelines)

St Mary's Parochial Church Council (PCC) agrees the following:

#### Burials:

1. Every parishioner who is resident within the parish, those on the electoral roll, any person who dies in the parish has a right to be buried in the Churchyard;
2. No reservation of a space will be allowed unless a faculty has been granted by the Diocesan Chancellor;
3. Graves and plots for cremated remains to be double depth where a partner survives.
4. Type, size and material of headstone, plaque must comply with the Diocesan; Chancellor's guidelines, and submitted to the incumbent for approval or the Area Dean in times of vacancy;
5. Cremated remains must be in a perishable container and bio-degradable;
6. Scattering of ashes is not permitted under any circumstances.

#### Trees

1. Condition of trees is the responsibility of PCC;
2. Maintenance and safety of the trees is the responsibility of the Churchwardens;
3. Planting of additional trees at discretion of incumbent and PCC, and faculty obtained for additional trees.

#### Flowers, etc.:

1. Fresh flowers are permitted, at head of grave, otherwise grass for ease of mowing. No permanent planting outside of agreed areas.
2. Christmas wreaths etc removed after two months
3. Artificial flowers, ornaments, other extras are to be discouraged (particularly if they are not biodegradable) and deteriorate in appearance. To be removed after a short period of time by the graveyard maintenance group.

#### Maintenance:

1. Grass- cutting will be carried out by an external contractor
2. Maintenance Group volunteers to ensure graveyard is kept appropriately with due respect for deceased parishioners.
3. Eco – Church Group volunteers to ensure wild life areas are appropriately maintained and fostered.

This policy to be reviewed annually by the PCC following the APCM.

April 2024