



St John the Evangelist  
Bilton, Harrogate

## Guidelines for interment of cremated remains

Churchyards are places of burial and the focus of family memory, and are an important part of local landscape and heritage, and a sanctuary of the natural world. What is done in them should set a standard within the community, gathering together history, beauty, craftsmanship, human memories and a deep sense of respect for humanity, nature and God. Because the Church of England sees its guardianship of churchyards as a great responsibility on behalf of local community, it attempts to secure the highest standards in all that is done in them.

1. Only cremated remains may be interred in the part of the churchyard specifically reserved for the purpose.
2. Cremated remains should be reverently poured into a specially prepared hole in the ground between 18 and 24 inches deep. The scattering or strewing of cremated remains is not permitted. If a casket is used we request it to be made of biodegradable material.
3. Bedded tablets of stone to be laid flush with the surrounding ground and be of a uniform size of 300 x 300 mm (12 x 12 ins). The layout of the stones will be uniform in regular rows.
4. All must be made of Welsh black slate appropriate to the roof of the church. The use of marble or synthetic stone is not permitted.
5. Stones must not have highly polished reflecting finishes. Smooth dressing, without polishing, is entirely sufficient to enable letters to be cut legibly, with flat face (no bevel for vase etc).
6. The inscription on the plaque should be approved by the Resident Priest and the PCC. Lettering must be Times New Roman 1"/ 7/8" /3/4" in grey. Inscriptions should be restricted to the name of the deceased with a few words plus date of birth and date of death (if desired).
7. To permit mowing, only bulbs may be planted around the stones.
8. Wreaths and cut flowers may be placed on the stone. Persons responsible for the day to day maintenance of the churchyard may remove flowers when they appear to be withered. No artificial flowers are allowed.
9. Photographs, toys, ceramic portraits, stone or glass chippings and raised kerbs are not permitted.
10. The tributes left by the bereaved and their friends may be carefully placed on the tablet. These are removed when they become unsightly or after 2 weeks.
11. Details will be recorded in a book of remembrance in the church.