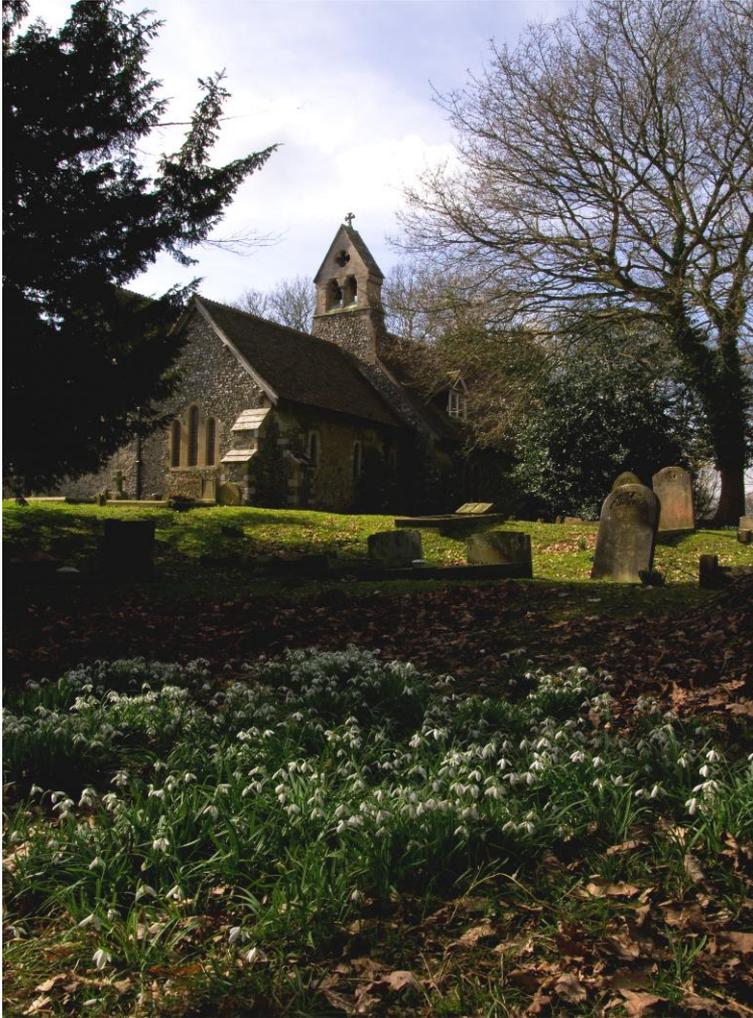




Parish of South Gillingham Team Ministry
St Peter's Church
Bredhurst
Guidelines for Memorials
in the Churchyard



Revised June 2017

This booklet has been prepared to help families make the right decisions for them and their loved ones at a very difficult time. The regulations help us to keep the churchyard as a naturally beautiful area where the bereaved can find peace and comfort.

Before the Funeral

Anyone who dies in our parish, or had their permanent address in the parish, or was on the parish electoral roll at the time of their death, has a right to be buried in the churchyard.

Before deciding to have a burial at St Peter's, please remember that churchyard regulations are very restrictive and that we are required to strictly enforce them. Only a simple headstone in natural weathering stone with a basic inscription is allowed. Statues, chippings, vases, shrubs, and many other things that families like to place on a grave are forbidden and are liable to be removed.

Regulations in local authority cemeteries are usually more flexible.

If you are in any doubt, please talk to your Funeral Director or the Minister before finally deciding on the place of burial.

After the Funeral

You will want to keep the grave tidy by removing wreaths and flowers as they begin to wither. Please take these home for disposal. You can continue to lay fresh flowers on the grave as you wish.

When the ground settles we strongly recommend putting grass over the grave (we can do this for you) or, if you are sure you will visit regularly, use good compost for planting annual flowers or bulbs.

Kerbstones and stone chippings are dangerous and are not permitted.

Shrubs make maintenance difficult and may also be removed.

After about six months you can start thinking about a memorial. Please be careful with choosing from the brochures of mail order companies – many designs are not allowed in our churchyard. The supplier will complete the form requesting permission for the memorial. This form is then sent via the parish office to the minister who took the service for approval. Only when approval has been given should the order be confirmed.

Simple Rules for Memorials

You are allowed:

An approximately rectangular headstone in natural weathering stone, including slate. (The headstone may have a rounded or similar top.)

A simple inscription, preferably in incised lettering.

Some alternative memorials may be approved, but talk to the clergy first.

Small plants, bulbs, etc., Cut flowers

Grassing over (this is by far the best way of keeping a grave looking nice and we can arrange it for you.)

You are not allowed:

Any monument in black, red or dark-grey granite (light grey is allowed); or of marble, synthetic stone or plastic. Books, hearts, arches, etc. or memorials with pierced holes are not permitted.

Polished stones, gilded or silvered lettering, Inappropriate inscriptions

(= sentimental or incompatible with the Christian faith)

Photographs or other depictions of the deceased, coloured images or pictorial etchings, additional memorials, statues, etc. (though sunken vases are allowed)

Kerbstones, Railings, Chippings, Artificial flowers, Lights, Lanterns.

Shrubs or trees (but we welcome offers of such plants for stocking the garden areas of the churchyard).

Fuller detailed information is contained in the Diocese of Rochester Churchyard Regulations (currently the 1981 edition.) Please note that the clergy have no authority to permit that which is not allowed by the Diocesan Regulations. If we do not approve of a proposed memorial you can petition the Chancellor (the Diocesan legal officer) for a faculty. We are happy to explain this procedure, but note that the diocese and the parish do consult on applications.

Unfortunately in the past these regulations have not always been observed, therefore please sign below that you have read and understood the Guidelines and return to the Parish office before the Interment takes place.

Signature & Date

Name in block Capitals

Other Memorials

The names of all those buried in the churchyard are entered into a memorial book kept in the church. A booklet is available explaining our policy on gifts made to the church in memory of a loved one.

There is an annual service to remember those who have died in the previous year. This is usually held on the first Sunday in November at St Matthew's Church in Wigmore.

St Peter's Services

There is always a Sunday service at 11.00am

There is a quiet evening service every 4th Sunday at 6.30pm
For details of other services and services at our other churches, please see the website or Spiral, the parish magazine.

Volunteering

We rely entirely on volunteers to keep the churchyard looking beautiful. Talk to your minister for details of how to join our band of helpers.

Contacts:

Parish Office: Mrs Vivien Fuller
tel: 01634 231736
St Matthew's Church,
Drewery Drive, Gillingham,
Kent ME8 ONX

St Matthew Wigmore Rev Canon Brian Senior
tel: 01634 231071

St Paul Parkwood Rev Phil Barnes
tel: 01634 306806

St Peter Bredhurst Rev Pamela Alexander
tel: 01634 817500

All Saints Hempstead Rev Munna Mitra
tel: 01634 375869

Reader
tel: 07889960062

Sue Jelfs

Reader
tel: 01634 234712

Geoff Hufton

*For more information about St Peter's, and a copy of the formal regulations, please see our website:
www.bredhurstchurch.co.uk.*

*Please note that this leaflet has no legal standing.
We are obliged to work within the Diocesan Regulations, a copy of which may be obtained from the Parish Office, church website or your Funeral Director.*

**Large print copies
available on request**

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE
ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF SOUTH GILLINGHAM
Registered Charity Number: 1130544
The Parish Office, St Matthew's Church, Drewery Drive,
Wigmore, Gillingham, Kent ME8 0NX