

Contacts:

For general enquiries:

Parish Office:

St Matthew's Church,
Drewery Drive,
Gillingham,
Kent ME8 ONX

Mrs Vivien Fuller

tel: 01634 231736

Ministers:

St Matthew Wigmore Rev Canon Brian Senior, tel: 01634 231071

St Paul Parkwood Rev Phil Barnes tel: 01634 306806

All Saints Hempstead Rev Munna Mitra, tel: 01634 375869

St Peter Bredhurst Rev Pamela Alexander tel: 01634 817500

Reader Sue Jelfs tel: 07889960062

Reader Geoff Hufton tel: 01634 234712

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.

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 ONX

Parish of South Gillingham
St Peter's Church Bredhurst
St Matthew's Church Wigmore



Guidelines for the Gardens of Remembrance

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 are designed to keep the gardens as a naturally beautiful area where the bereaved can find peace and comfort

Before the Interment

Before deciding to have ashes interred at one of our churches, please remember that churchyard regulations are very restrictive and that we are obliged to strictly enforce these rules.

There are gardens of remembrance at St Matthew's Wigmore and St Peter's Bredhurst. There is no garden of remembrance at St Paul's Parkwood or All Saints Hempstead. We can accept in either of the gardens the ashes of anyone who died in the parish, had their permanent residence in the parish at the time of their death, or was on the parish electoral roll. At St Peter's we may be able to arrange interment in an existing family grave even if the other conditions are not met.

Ashes must be buried and not scattered. Any container must be of cardboard. The only memorial allowed is an entry in the book of remembrance. Flowers may be placed in troughs where provided but spike vases, plaques and many other things that families like to place in the churchyard are forbidden and will be removed.

Regulations in local authority cemeteries and crematoria are usually more flexible and we recommend having the interment there if you are unhappy with any of our rules.

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

To arrange the ceremony please contact the Minister who took the funeral, either directly or through your funeral director. There is a statutory fee of £151 from 2017.

After the Interment

We will leave flowers on the ground for 24 hours but will then place these in the trough vases if available.

Please place any subsequent flowers in the vases where provided.

To protect the grass, any flowers placed on the ground later will be immediately moved to the troughs.

Please do not use spike vases. They will be removed and placed at the side of the garden for you to collect.

Other Memorials

The names of all those interred in the churchyard are entered into a memorial book kept in the church.

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

You are welcome at any of our services:

Church Services

There is always a Sunday service at:

10.00am at St Matthew's Wigmore and 9.30am All Saints Hempstead, 11.00am at St Peter's Bredhurst and 10.30am St Paul's (Parkwood).

Volunteering

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

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

Large print copies available on request