

## Parish of South Gillingham St Peter's Church Bredhurst

### 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 held on the first Sunday in November at St Matthew's Church in Wigmore.

You are welcome at any of our services and you can always borrow a key to the church. If you light a candle, please put it out before you leave. The church is also open Wednesday mornings in summer.

### St Peter's Services

There is always a Sunday service at 11.00am

There is a quiet evening service every 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday at 6.30pm

For details of our other services, please see the website or Spiral, the parish magazine.

### Volunteering

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

### Contacts:

Parish Office: 01634 231736

Curate: Graham Lewis, 01634 373036

For details of services in our other churches (St Paul, Parkwood; St Matthew, Wigmore and All Saints, Hempstead), please call the office or look in our magazine, Spiral.

For more information about St Peter's, and for pictures of what is and is not allowed and also a copy of the formal regulations, please see our website: [www.bredhurstchurch.co.uk](http://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.*



## Guidelines for Memorials in the Churchyard

Issue May 2009

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 churchyard as a naturally beautiful area where the bereaved can find peace and comfort

### **Before the Funeral**

Before deciding to have a burial at St Peter's, please remember that churchyard regulations are very restrictive and that we are strictly enforcing these rules for all future burials. The only memorial allowed is a simple headstone in natural weathering stone. Statues, chippings, additional vases, shrubs and many other things that families like to place on a grave are forbidden and will be removed without notice.

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 going to visit regularly, use good compost for planting annual flowers or bulbs.

Kerbstones and stone chippings are dangerous and will be removed.

Shrubs make maintenance difficult and will also be removed.

After about six months you can start thinking about a memorial. Please be careful with choosing memorial stones from the brochures of national companies – most are not allowed in our churchyard. We suggest that you work through your funeral director or use a local monumental mason as they understand our requirements. They will guide you and complete the form requesting permission for the memorial. This form is then sent to the clergy for approval. Only when approval has been given should the order be confirmed.

## **Simple Rules**

### **You are allowed:**

An approximately rectangular headstone in natural weathering stone.

(The headstone may have a rounded or similar top.)

A simple inscription in black lettering

Some alternative memorials may be approved but check our website and talk to the clergy before deciding.

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:**

Black or dark-grey stones (except slate, which is acceptable)

Stones in the shape of books, hearts, arches, etc. or with pierced holes.

Polished stones

Gilded lettering

Inappropriate inscriptions

(overly sentimental or incompatible with the Christian faith)

Photographs or other depictions of the deceased

Coloured images

Additional memorials, statues, etc. (though sunken vases are allowed)

Kerbstones, Chippings

Artificial flowers

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

Memorial Plaques

*We will remove from graves without notice any items that are not in keeping with the regulations. Please ensure that you understand this.*