

## Interment of Ashes in St. Helen's Churchyard



St Helen's churchyard is a beautiful place at the heart of our village. For hundreds of years to the present day it has provided a place for Christian burials. In the tranquillity and beauty of this sacred space the earthly remains of those treasured by our community are laid to rest in peace.

### Practicalities

If you have a **family grave** in the churchyard it may well be possible for the cremated remains of further family members to be buried there as well, the minister will be pleased to investigate this for you. You will need to consult a qualified memorial mason for advice on those memorials permitted under the Diocese of St Alban's Churchyard Regulations.

A **Garden of Remembrance** has been created for those who do not have an existing family grave. In the centre of the churchyard, (to the south-west of the church) the Garden of Remembrance includes space for small memorial plaques to be added. Under the churchyard regulations, other grave markers or memorials are not permitted. The exact location of the ashes is measured and recorded so other loved ones can be buried alongside at a later date if appropriate.

Please arrange for the ashes to be delivered to the minister conducting the service in advance. The funeral director will usually be happy to organise this if the ashes are still in their care.

### Service of Interment

A short service takes place when the ashes are interred into their final resting place. The service includes a very short reading from the bible, silent reflection in which we hold before God our memories of those who

have died and some simple prayers. During the prayer of committal the ashes are poured into the specially prepared hole. This hole is filled in immediately after the service. Usually, the whole service takes place outside and lasts around ten minutes. However, if the weather is very inclement the service can begin in church, with only the Prayer of Committal taking place at the graveside or in the Garden of Remembrance.

### Fees

The standard fee for the burial of ashes in a Church of England churchyard is **£182**. We pay a professional gravedigger to prepare the place for the interment of ashes, this costs **£50**. You will be invoiced before the service; fees are payable by bank transfer or by cheque to "**Wheathampstead PCC**".

Should you wish to have a small plaque added in the Garden of Remembrance, please ask for a form with full details and examples of suitable memorial plaques.

### Special Note

In accordance with guidelines issued nationally, and the Churchyard Regulations issued by the Diocese of St Albans, the ashes are poured loose into the ground. It is therefore important they are supplied loose in a suitable container (**not** a sealed casket) so they can be poured into the ground.

### and finally...

We pray regularly for those who grieve for the loss of loved ones and are pleased to offer pastoral support and a listening ear. Do let us know how we can help.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the minister conducting the service and they will be happy to discuss arrangements.

*Updated March 2023*