



# ***St Edward's Churchyard***

***- a piece of the country in the  
middle of the city***

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# ***St Edward's Churchyard - a piece of the country in the middle of the city***

## ***About this booklet***

When someone you love has died, it is a time of sadness and pain. As a Church we are here to help you through your bereavement. There are several pastoral ways that we can support through visits, listening support and our bereavement support group.

However, some families find it helpful to make the churchyard a final resting place of a loved one: St Edward's church has been a special place of remembrance for over 1000 years. Because it is so ancient, on a steep, hilly location at one time surrounded by agricultural land and in response to the disappearing habitats, the local church took the decision to maintain the churchyard in an ecologically sensitive way. This adds an extra dimension to this ancient and special place of remembrance - it is also teeming with wildlife, beautiful and rare wildflowers which makes it a country haven in the middle of our growing city and a place where we pray you may find hope and peace in the midst of your bereavement.



In order to ensure that our historic churchyards remain beautiful and peaceful places of remembrance, the Diocese have regulations to help you choose an appropriate memorial for the person who has died. Though they may restrict your initial ideas for what your memorial might look like, they have been developed over many years and across different places to balance differences of opinion. Also if followed they avoid the trouble and expense of seeking formal permission from the Chancellor.

We hope this booklet will help answer some questions you may have about commemorating the person who has died. This booklet is designed as an introduction rather than a comprehensive guide so please do not hesitate to ask your Vicar for help

## Can my family member be buried in a churchyard?

A churchyard is a special place and burials in a churchyard are different to burials in other types of burial grounds and cemeteries.

St Edward's Churchyard is an open churchyard -one of the few remaining in Plymouth which means that we are still able to have burials. Anyone who has been living or who has died in the parish (or is on the electoral roll) has the right to be buried there or to have their ashes interred. 'Living in the parish' includes someone who



normally lives there but who died elsewhere, such as in a hospital or hospice



Sometimes people believe they have bought the plot of land in which their loved one is buried.

This is not the case: they are simply paying for the work involved in the burial and making a contribution towards maintaining the churchyard. No part of the consecrated churchyard can be sold.

If you would like a family member to be buried in St Edward's Churchyard please check with your vicar who will help.



# ***I want to put up a headstone.***

## ***What do I need to know?***

You may not realise this but no one has the right to a churchyard memorial. All memorials have to be approved first. If the person who has died has been cremated you may want to have a cremation tablet as a memorial.



A legal officer known as the Chancellor is responsible for making the Churchyard Regulations for the Diocese of Exeter. The



Regulations cover questions such as size, materials, designs and inscriptions. Professional Monumental Masons know all the details of the Regulations and can guide you. A memorial that might be suitable for an urban, civic cemetery may look out of place next to a historic church building. The Chancellor is responsible

for making sure that the churchyard remains an appropriate setting for the parish church for the centuries to come. Any memorial inscription in the churchyard must be compatible with the Christian faith.

You can find the regulations on this website:

[www.exeter.anglican.org/  
resources/church-buildings/  
churchyards/](http://www.exeter.anglican.org/resources/church-buildings/churchyards/)

Please appreciate that the vicar has no power to allow monuments that do not comply with the Regulations which are there to help make sure that the churchyard is a place of peace and beauty for everyone to enjoy.



## How do I make an application?

The minimum time between the burial and putting up a memorial is six months to allow the ground to settle. Before you go too far with your plans, please talk to your vicar (parish priest) first to avoid difficulties and disappointment later in the process.



Many people ask a Monumental Mason to help them choose a memorial. They can also deal with all the paperwork for you. Your vicar can only authorise simple headstones that comply with the Churchyard Regulations. In less straightforward cases you will need to apply to the Chancellor of the Diocese for permission (a 'Faculty'), for which there is a fee. Your vicar will be able to advise you how to apply.

## What are the key features of the regulations?

- ⇒ **Materials:** Natural Stone, with non-reflecting surface, or hardwood only. Stones traditionally used in local buildings.
- ⇒ **Size:** Headstones no higher than 4ft (1228mm); no wider than 3ft (915mm); no thicker than 6 inches (150mm); Slate to be no less than 1.5 inches (38mm) thick.
- ⇒ **Design:** No portraits or photographs on the headstone; no kerbs, fencing, railings, chains or chippings; no heart or book shaped stones; no sculptures or statues; no lights.
- ⇒ **Inscriptions:** must be simple, reverent and of Christian significance.
- ⇒ **Upkeep:** Spring bulbs may be planted and fresh flowers placed in a removable container sunk into the ground. No artificial flowers except for poppies at Remembrance and traditional Christmas wreaths which are to be removed after two months. No garden ornaments, windmills, toys etc.



# I want to tend the plot when I visit.

## What do I need to know?

It is natural to want to ensure that your plot is kept tended and cared for out of respect for your loved one. However, sometimes people believe they have bought the plot of land in which their loved one is buried. This is not the case. All memorials have to be approved - this includes anything that is left visible on the plot.

## What can I do to tend the plot?

To assist you in this, the regulations encourage families to plant spring bulbs within the plot and, if you have a removable container sunk into the ground or at the base of the headstone, fresh flowers can be



placed in remembrance. If you bring fresh flowers please take the wrappings and the plant food sachets/packets home with you: The plastic wrappings do not degrade and get blown onto other peoples family graves and look unsightly.

Artificial flowers can only be left as Poppies at Remembrance and traditional Christmas wreaths. In both these circumstances they need to be removed within two months. Additionally we would ask that you don't use Oasis for these wreaths as they contain formaldehyde which is highly toxic to wildlife and plants and when used outside will contaminate the area around it. There are alternatives and we encourage you where possible to use this.



Other than that, nothing further is permitted.

## What is not permitted?

- \* You are not permitted to decorate the plot with garden ornaments, windmills or wind chimes, toys - anything other than spring bulbs or fresh flowers in a container.
- \* You are also not permitted to put up kerbs, fencing, edging, railings, chains or use chippings (neither stone nor wood).
- \* Please do not use oasis for wreaths and flower arrangements as these contain formaldehyde - ask for ecological alternatives.
- \* Please do not leave plastic wrappers or plant food sachets/packets around - please ensure you dispose of these in a bin.



## How can I help to care for the wider Churchyard?

A churchyard is a special place and are different to other types of burial grounds and cemeteries. They are maintained by the local church congregation and volunteers. We receive no income from the City Council, Government taxes or the Church of England centrally to maintain our churchyard. All funds are donated and raised locally. It costs £3000 each year just to ensure the grass is regularly cut and key maintenance is done - the work of the volunteers is vital to If you would like to support the ongoing work of the Churchyard there are several ways you can help.



Give financially: Text **1430GREEN** (amount) to **70085** to donate (amount) ; Set up a standing order to make a one off or regular donation etc

Join one of our Greenfinger mornings, on Saturdays 9am-12pm throughout the year

If you can't make the Greenfinger events, but are keen to volunteer at different times contact Jon on 07925 136874 to find out how you can do this.

## Some things to look out for in Eggbuckland Churchyard:

In 2015 we became a '**Living Churchyard**' and our opening ceremony was attended by the **Bishop of Plymouth, Nick McKinnell**, our local MP Johnny Mercer and the Devon air radio presenter Michael Chequer. Our Ground Steward, Jon Lake, gave a talk on our vision for the Churchyard and Bishop Nick Prayed a prayer of blessing and cut the ribbon around the Yew tree to declare the project



officially 'open'. This was followed by a barbecue and was attended by about 50 adults and children from the Church and local community.



As you enter through the gates, on your left you will see The Living Churchyard Notice board which is regularly updated with information about the wildlife, flora and fauna

found in the Churchyard. On your right can be found the flower bed with seasonal displays created by our 'Greenfingers' team.

Moving towards to the main door of the Church, you cannot fail to notice our 400 year old magnificent **Yew tree**, which is poisonous to livestock and may have been planted here to discourage them from entering the Churchyard when it was once surrounded by farmland.



## Some things to look out for in Eggbuckland Churchyard:

Past the main Church door and up on a bank to your right, is our "**Millenial Yew**", planted on the 8th April 2017 by our current vicar, Rev. Chris Routledge. It is a cutting taken in the year 2000, from a 2000 year old Yew tree at St. Margaret the Queen's church in Buxted, to celebrate the Millenium.



Carrying on along the path through to the main Churchyard, if you look to your left you

will see

four

**Beehives,**

surrounded by a fence for safety



reasons. These are cared for by a local Beekeeper and seem to do very well in their surroundings.

Alongside the Hives is a Boggy Garden, created by several natural springs and in the summer

you will see the

**Gunneras (giant Rhubarb),** Arum lillies and flag Irises which we have planted to attract

wildlife, as well as the Marsh Marigolds, that follow the stream down beside the hives.



## Some things to look out for in Eggbuckland Churchyard:

Continuing down towards the bottom of the Churchyard we have created a **bee and butterfly border** which has been planted up with red and black currants, apple trees, Echiums, white and purple Buddleia, **Foxgloves**, Borage, and Lavender, all plants that provide a great source of nectar for pollinating insects such as honey bees, Bumble bees, Solitary bees, Butterflies and Moths, whilst also providing habitat and shelter for small mammals and insects.



To the left of the border and tucked away in a corner are our two **compost bins**, where compostable waste is stored to make

compost to be re-used in the Churchyard and next to them is our Bug hotel, created in 2016 by local schoolchildren to celebrate the Queen's 90th Birthday which we named, 'Btingham Palace'.



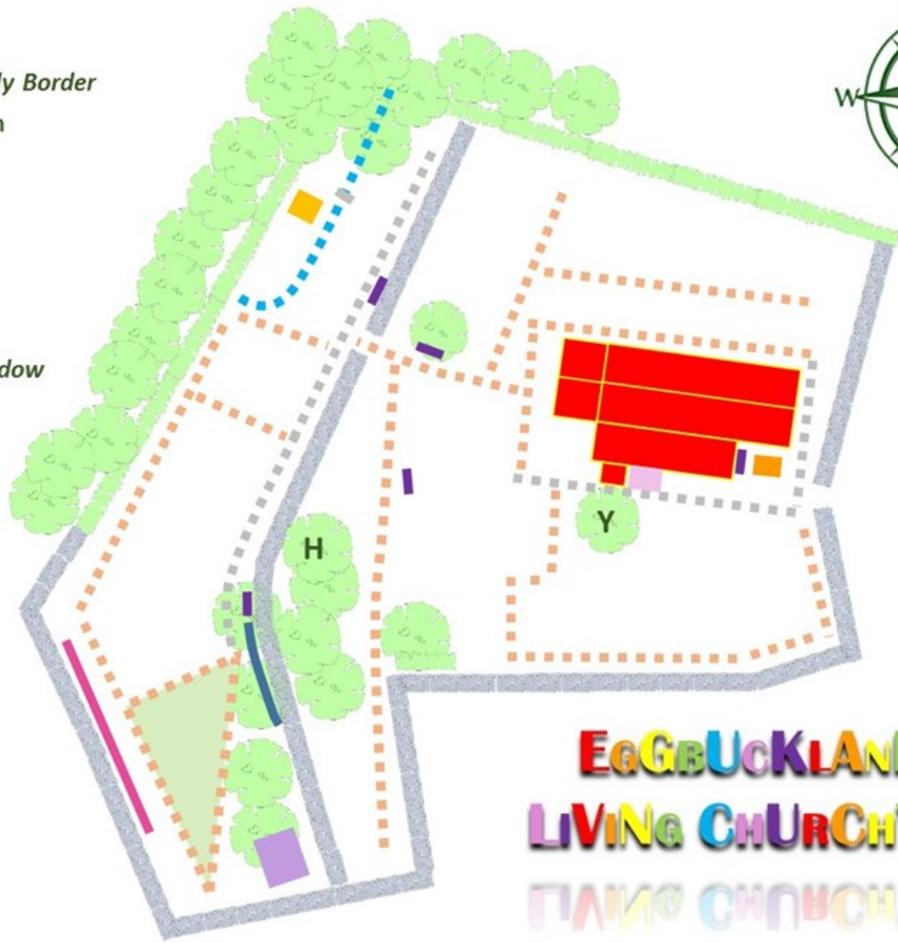
You may also see piles of wood or leaves, which have been left to create 'Hibernariums', which create spaces of shelter and habitat for insects and small mammals such as hedgehogs, slo-worms and toads.



***Our vision for the Churchyard has always been to create a space where grieving families and wildlife can co-exist, both finding safety and peace in the beautiful surroundings of such a unique and special place."***

-  Stream
-  Bee and Butterfly Border
-  Camellia Garden
-  Compost Bins
-  Poppies
-  Rose Garden
-  Bee Hives
-  Seats
-  Wildflower Meadow

-  Holme Oak (Quercus Ilex)
-  Ancient Yew Tree (Taxis Baccata)



**EGGUCKLAND'S**  
**LIVING CHURCHYARD**  
 PLAIN CHURCHYARD

