

Summary of Regulations concerning Memorials & Headstones in Churchyards & Consecrated Burial Grounds May 2019



DIOCESE OF TRURO

DISCOVERING GOD'S KINGDOM
GROWING THE CHURCH

MEMORIAL REGULATIONS

Regulation dimensions

Memorials may be of any dimensions within the given maximum and minimum.

(a) Headstones;

Height: between 1200mm (4'0") and 750mm (2'6") [measured from the surface of the ground]

Width: between 900mm (3'0") and 500mm (1'8")

Thickness: between 150mm (6") and 75mm (3")

[except in the case of slate memorials which may be no less than 38mm (1½)].

(b) Headstones for infant burials:

Height: not less than 600mm (2'0")

Width: not less than 375mm (1'3")

Thickness: not less than 50mm (2")

(c) Cross and base memorials:

Height (from the surface of the ground): between 1.5 metre (5'0") & 900mm (3'0")

Width: between 900mm (3'0") and 600mm (2'0")

Thickness: between 380mm (1'3") and 150mm (6")

(d) Horizontal ledger stones:

Length: between 2100mm (7'0") and 120cm (4'0")

Width: between 900mm (3'0") and 600mm (2'0")

Ledger stones to be laid flush with the ground, unless the Parish Priest and PCC, in their absolute discretion, agree otherwise.

(e) Memorial plaques:

Plaques set above interred cremated remains shall be laid flush with the ground, unless the Parish Priest and PCC, in their absolute discretion, agree otherwise, and measure not more than 450mm (18 inches) by 400mm (16 inches).

The PCC of the church may have set aside a special area for the interment of cremated remains, and any rules laid down by the PCC must also be observed.

(f) Base and Foundation Slab Headstones may be of three types:

(1) So shaped that they can be inserted directly into the ground at sufficient depth to ensure stability;

(2) On an integral base not more than 900mm (3'0") wide, nor projecting more than 100mm (4") in any direction, nor more than 225mm (9") high

(3) On a vase base not more than 900mm (3'0") wide, nor projecting more than 100mm (4") on either side, nor projecting more than 180mm (7") in front of the headstone, no more than 100mm (4") high. The base must be no more than 375mm (1'3") overall, front to back. It should be noted that since the base may not be more than 900mm (3'0") wide, the use of a headstone more than 700mm (2'4") wide will reduce the extent to which the base may project on either side.

Regulation materials.

Memorials must be of approved natural stone or of hardwood.

The following stone is approved in the Diocese. Please contact the DAC secretary for advice if necessary:

(a) Granite:

Preferred: Silver grey, quarried in Cornwall and Devon.

Permitted: Silver grey from other sources including Tarn (France), Karin (Finland), Marlow (Portugal).

(b) Slate: Cornish, Welsh Blue and Grey, Lakeland Green and Grey.

(c) **No other materials are permitted.** In particular blue, red, black and dark grey granites, white marble, synthetic stone and plastic are not permitted.

Designs and statues.

Individuality and excellence of design of memorials is encouraged.

A design carved into the face of the stone or hardwood is permissible, provided that it is of high quality, relevant and reverent. **The design may be uncoloured or may be tinted in black, white, silver or gold leaf.** Any other proposals are subject to permission by the Chancellor.

A cross should be individually designed if a permanent memorial in this form is desired. A book or Bible design is acceptable but should be mounted upon a tick-rest or a second base, and the overall height may be of less than 750mm (2'6").

Headstones of rectangular shape or with curved tops are permitted. Memorials of other shapes, as well as sculpture and statuary, may only be authorised by the Chancellor.

Photographs or porcelain or other portraits or pictures are not permitted. Military, heraldic or other insignia or emblems are permitted only if written permission has been given by the military unit or other proprietor of the device.

Kerbs, railings, chains, chippings or glass shades are not permitted.

Regulation Finishes

Preferred:

a smooth finish (no more polished than a non-reflective or honed finish).

Permissible:

(a) a rough finish

(b) the inscribed face may be polished to a reflective finish (but not any other part of the stone).

For information relating to Trademarks, Quick Response Codes, Inscriptions, War Graves, Flowers and other tributes - refer to the full regulations:

www.trurodiocese.org.uk/resource-collection/diocesan-advisory-committee/

Timothy J. Briden Chancellor of the Diocese of Truro

Date: 1st May 2019