

OCKHAM PARISH COUNCIL

PARISH BURIAL GROUND

Introduction

The Ockham Parish Council Burial Ground (sometimes referred to as the Garden of Rest) is situated immediately adjacent to All Saints' Church, which is sign posted at the junction of Ockham Road North and Guileshill Lane in Ockham, Surrey, GU23 6NL.

The All Saints' Churchyard is closed for further burials but the Parish Burial Ground still has a few remaining plots for burials or internment of ashes.

This note sets out how to apply for a burial or ashes plot (if available) in the Parish Burial Ground and the associated regulations.

Enquiries

Enquiries regarding the Parish Burial Ground should be addressed in the first instance to the Ockham Parish Clerk (who will liaise as appropriate with the Lead Councillor for the Parish Burial Ground) at: clerk@ockhamparishcouncil.gov.uk

Please note that enquiries regarding All Saints' Church and Churchyard should be addressed to the Rector or Churchwardens of All Saints' Church (see the All Saints' Church, Ockham, website).

Burial Ground Regulations

As indicated above, burial and ashes plots in the Parish Burial Ground are limited in number and in view of this are now normally only available to Ockham Parish Residents or, in exceptional circumstances at the discretion of the Parish Council, to persons with very close ties to the Parish.

Subject to the above criteria and availability, burial or ashes plots may be reserved via the Ockham Parish Clerk, upon payment of relevant fees and charges set out in the attached Fee List.

Memorials, such as grave head or flat stones, ashes head or flat stones, tablets, inscriptions, etc, require the prior written consent of the Parish Council and the payment of relevant fees and charges again as set out in the attached Fee List. The Parish Council reserves the right to

require payment of such fees and charges at same time as the burial or ashes plots are reserved.

In view of the near proximity with the All Saints' Churchyard and its grave stones, and the close association with All Saints' Church, the Parish Council will normally only consent to memorials of light coloured natural stone, simple design, limited size, and with simple and reverent inscriptions. There are also restrictions relating to the planting of trees or shrubs, removal of wreaths, flowers, and memorabilia. The Parish Council, whilst acknowledging that the Parish Burial Ground is not a "Churchyard" in the technical sense, seeks to ensure that as far as properly applicable the Burial Ground Regulations follow the principles of e.g. the Diocese of Guildford Churchyard Regulations 2022. A copy of the Burial Ground Regulations (based on relevant section of the Guildford Churchyard Regulations 2022) [is attached][may be requested from the Parish Clerk].

Parish Council's Role

It is important to note that in relation to the Burial Ground the role of the Parish Council (and not All Saints Church) is to:

- reserve burial and ashes plots;
- require and receive payment of appropriate fees and charges;
- sanction and regulate new burials and/or re-opening existing graves for burial purposes;
- approve the type and detail of headstones, ledger stones and other memorials including inscriptions;
- receive and preserve burial and cremation certificates;
- maintain a Burial Ground Plan showing the locations of burials and internments;
- maintain a Burial Ground Register recording details of those buried or interred;
- maintain the Burial Ground trees, fences, hedges, gates, and Parish Council owned benches.

The Parish Council is NOT responsible for arranging, making or paying for:

funeral services; cremations; memorial services; including clergy, organist, choir, etc services;

funeral directors; grave digging; purchase, installation or maintenance of memorials; or other arrangements relating to burials or internment of ashes.

These are the responsibility of the persons wishing to utilise the burial or ashes plots.

Before making arrangements for burials or internment of ashes, the Parish Council should be contacted to ensure that:

- the appropriate plot has been reserved and identified;
- the Burial Ground Regulations, particularly in relation to proposed memorial stones, are adhered to;
- all relevant fees are paid;
- unimpeded access to the Burial Ground is available on the desired date;
- it is aware of, and agrees to, the arrangements for the relevant burial or internment of ashes (funeral/memorial services, funeral directors, grave digging, installation of

memorials, etc) proposed;
any questions or advice required are addressed to the appropriate individuals or
organisations in due time.