



Bereavement

Members of the Parish Council appreciate that planning for bereavement can be a difficult issue to deal with. The following information may help with burial arrangements and the Parish Council is committed to dealing with these matters in an efficient and sensitive manner.

Burial Application

In most cases bereaved families make their arrangements through a Funeral Director who will deal with the Parish Council on their behalf.

An early consideration will be to confirm that a burial can take place in Blockley Cemetery. The burial may require use of:

- An unused vacant plot (full burials only – for cremated remains caskets please refer to Church)
- A previously reserved plot
- Re-opening a previously used family grave

The Clerk to the Parish Council will confirm the availability of space and plot number with the Funeral Director and then request them to complete an application form.

Grave Ownership

If a previously used grave needs to be re-opened, certain information will be required to confirm authorisation as this is a legal requirement.

If the original grave owner is deceased and buried in the Cemetery, the later burial of their spouse can be arranged fairly quickly.

But for other family members it is important to arrange transfer of ownership of the Exclusive Right of Burial as soon as possible and, ideally, before a further burial has to be arranged. If such a burial is imminent this will have to be dealt with urgently and the Parish Council will provide help and guidance to facilitate the transfer grave ownership.

After the Funeral

After the funeral, the Funeral Director will be responsible for reinstating the grave. Flowers and wreaths will be left on the grave until they have expired and will normally be removed after one month. Thereafter, flowers may be left provided they remain tidy and do not interfere with maintenance or inspection. Shrubs or similar plants should not be planted on the grave as roots can undermine headstone foundations.

Memorial

If relatives want to install a memorial, they should contact the Clerk to the Parish Council to discuss specifications and completion of application form. After the burial, a period of six months should be allowed for the ground to settle before installation of a headstone.

All costs associated with memorial installation and repair are the grave owner family responsibility.

Burial and Memorial Fees

Fees are payable for purchase of the grave plot (one payment only), for each burial, and memorial installation and inscriptions. A schedule of fees will be provided upon request.

For further information, please contact:

Clerk to Blockley Parish Council – 01386 701602 parishclerk@blockley.org.uk