

--We want you to find the Churchyard to be a place of peace and refreshment where memories can be recalled and the pain of mourning be healed by the love of the Risen Christ within these tranquil surroundings. Please help us to maintain it in this manner. Thank you.

If you need further help or have questions to ask, please contact the Parish Office.

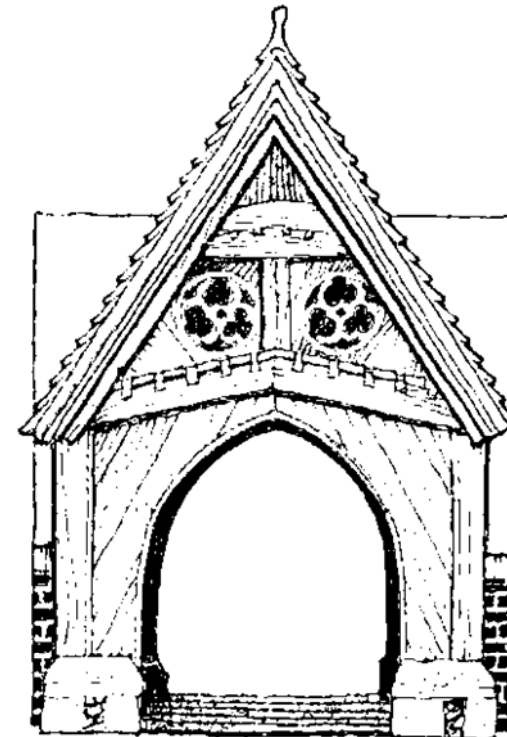
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Wendover Parochial Church Council.
May 2008

St Mary's Church, Wendover

WENDOVER CHURCHYARD



Regulations for Churchyard Use

The CHURCHYARD, or 'God's Acre' as it is sometimes known, is a part of Wendover that has been hallowed by centuries of use. It is here that many people have come to lay their loved ones to rest and where they have come to remember, reflect and give thanks. A number of old tombstones have survived and offer an interesting insight into the past.

Today the care of the Churchyard is the joint responsibility of St Mary's Parochial Church Council and Wendover Parish Council and governed by the regulations of the diocese of Oxford. The day-to-day care of the Churchyard is overseen by the Churchyard Care Committee although legal authority for burials and memorials rests with the diocese of Oxford.

The regulations may be obtained from the Parish Office.

Frequently asked questions:

Who can be buried?

Any resident of the parish as well as those closely associated with St Mary's Church have a right to be buried in the Churchyard, unless it has been closed for further burial by Order in Council.

How do I arrange a memorial for a grave?

Memorials are usually commissioned by the family in conjunction with a stonemason. (The Parish Office can supply a list of stonemasons who create appropriate memorials.) The stonemason then submits the proposed design to the Parish Office for approval, and the statutory fee is paid at that time.

Diocesan regulations govern size and material of the memorial, and the inscription should be simple and reverent. At least six months should elapse after a burial before a headstone is erected.

What about memorials for cremated remains?

The same procedure applies with regard to liaising with a stonemason with regard to design.

A memorial plaque may be placed on the ground in the Garden of Remembrance, above where the cremated remains have been buried.

A memorial plaque may be erected on the Churchyard wall adjacent to the place where cremated remains have been buried.

What about flowers?

Spring bulbs may be planted at or near a grave, but other plants and cut flowers should be in removable containers (not glass) which should be removed and the area kept clear once the flowers start to wither. Artificial flowers are not allowed and if placed in the Churchyard may be removed. The exceptions to this are: Remembrance Day poppies and traditional Christmas wreaths, which should be removed within one month.

How are graves maintained?

New grave mounds will be levelled and turfed approximately 6 months after burial. This is in order that the Churchyard may be maintained to a good standard.

Gardens, chippings, kerbs, chains, rails, solar powered or everlasting lights of any kind, are not permitted.