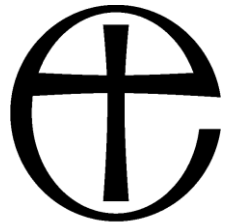


*Welcome to  
Packwood Church*



THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND



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**A guide for those arranging burial in  
St Giles' churchyard,**

**explaining the Churchyard Regulations of the Diocese of  
Birmingham 2006 and accepted by the St Giles PCC.**



A prayer which may be of help when visiting the Churchyard:

*O God, our creator,  
giver of life and love,  
I come here with mixed feelings of sorrow and thanksgiving  
to think of someone I still love, but can no longer see,  
whose character and gifts I remember before you now.*

*I ask you to be near me  
as tender feelings grow within.  
Bless this brief time of remembrance  
so I may go from here with new strength and confidence  
that the one I love is in your care,  
that their life still echoes in mine  
and that you go with me  
back into the busyness of the world.*

*Amen.*



*You may well see monuments in the churchyard that do not comply  
with all of the above, but we are now governed by the current  
regulations and do have to follow them. We trust you understand.*



### **What flowers and plants can be put on graves?**

There is usually no objection to the planting of bulbs or small plants; please contact the Vicar before planting any and he will advise you.

Vases can be incorporated into a stone monument. The stonemason can advise you about the precise regulations.

Cut flowers may be put on a grave. It is most helpful if you can clear them away when they die, though we understand, of course, if sometimes you are unable to return.

*Artificial flowers should not be put on graves*

(except for Remembrance Day poppies which should be removed after an appropriate time agreed by the Vicar).

No teddy bears, photographs or other sentimental items should be left on a grave. The Vicar and the Church Wardens have the right to remove them.

### **What records are kept?**

The church keeps a very careful record of all people buried in the churchyard. If you are interested in the registers, please contact the Vicar.

### **Any further questions?**

If you have any questions at all about any of this information, or concerns about any other matters please do contact the Vicar or Churchwardens.



Packwood Church welcomes you at what can be a difficult and distressing time. We hope that the beauty and tranquillity of Packwood is a comfort to you. Church is always open if you need a place to reflect.

As you consider how best to remember and honour the person you are mourning, this booklet is intended to answer some of the questions you may have about funerals and stone memorials at St Giles Packwood. These follow the Churchyard Regulations 2006 of the Birmingham Diocese.

**If you have any other questions, please ask the Vicar:**

**The Reverend Marc Catley**

**01564 783121**

**The Vicarage, Nuthurst Lane, Hockley Heath, Solihull B94 5 RP**



### **Who can be buried in Packwood Churchyard?**

Permission for a burial in the churchyard should be sought from the Vicar or Churchwardens. Anyone who lives in the parish, whatever their religious beliefs, or who is on the electoral roll of St Giles, may ask to be buried in the churchyard or to have their ashes buried after cremation.

### **How do we arrange the burial of ashes at Packwood?**

When arranging a cremation, tell the Funeral Director that you wish the ashes to be laid in Packwood Churchyard. They will then ensure that they are in a suitable wooden container for burial. If you wish, they can look after them for you until a time for laying the ashes has been arranged.

### **Ashes**

The scattering of ashes in the churchyard is not permitted.

### **When can you erect a monument?**

You can erect a monument 6 months after the burial. The stonemason that you choose will contact the Vicar to ask permission for the monument to be erected.

There are regulations concerning what kinds of monument you can have in Church of England churchyards and the main ones are summarised below. These regulations are designed to maintain the character and appearance of the churchyard and to allow easy maintenance of it, particularly so that graves will continue to look their best in the years to come.

As the maintenance of the monument after it is erected, is the responsibility of the relatives or personal representatives, the regulations try to ensure that monuments will last for a long time, will not be expensive to maintain and will not be easily susceptible to vandalism.

We should point out that there is not a right to burial in any particular part of the churchyard and neither a burial nor a monument gives any right of ownership to that part of the churchyard.

### **What can the monument be made of?**

The headstone, cross or slab can be made of unpolished natural stone that is sympathetic to the fabric of the church or can be made of English Oak.

The regulations do not allow us to erect marble or granite monuments, or monuments made of more than one type of stone, nor the colouring of incised letters (which tends to deteriorate quickly).

### **What size and shape can the monument be?**

Monuments allowed after a burial can be an upright headstone, cross or book or a flat stone that lies flush with the ground.

They should be no larger than 1.25m x 0.65m x 0.11m. (The stonemason or the Vicar will be able to tell you the exact measurements allowed.)



Monuments permitted after a burial of ashes are flat stones that lie flush with the ground, and they should be no larger than 0.45m x 0.30m

### **What can be written on the monument?**

Inscriptions should be in words and figures only and cut into the stone; it must include the full name of the person or persons buried with dates or years of birth and death. The Vicar may permit additional words if they are brief and appropriate.

### **What is not allowed?**

The regulations do not permit:

- gilding or silvering of the inscription.
- monuments in the shape of hearts or urns.
- statues or monuments with pictures or photographs on them.
- kerbs, railings and chippings on graves.
- grave mounds.