

It is possible to dedicate Sunday church flowers in memory of a loved one to commemorate an anniversary or a special family occasion; please speak to Marion our Vicar.

A Prayer

O God of times and seasons,
of beginnings and endings,
of life and hope,

mend the shards of this broken heart.

I thank you for those whose life has touched my life for
good;

for their love and their unique way of being;
for the way my life is changed because of them.

As they pass through this fleeting life,
hold them in your love
and keep them in eternal life.

And may the day come when we shall be reunited
in the place You have shaped for all who love you.

Amen.

For further questions or enquiries, or for support in any
aspect of grieving, please contact our vicar

The Revd Canon Marion Russell

marion.russell@leeds.anglican.org Tel: 01756 795625

The Chancellor's Churchyard Regulations are available in
full at

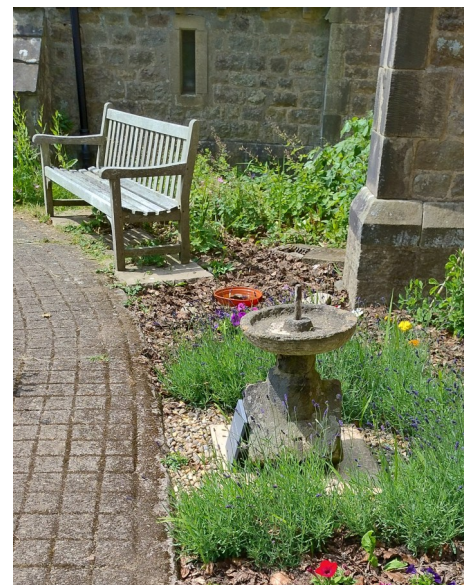
[https://www.leeds.anglican.org/how-we-can-help/dac/
consistory-court2/](https://www.leeds.anglican.org/how-we-can-help/dac/consistory-court2/)

The Chancellor, The Diocesan Registry: Yorkshire House,
East Parade, Leeds, LS1 5BD. Telephone: 0113 280 2241.

St Mary the Virgin, Embsay with Eastby, June 2025

St Mary's Church, Embsay with Eastby

Vicar: The Revd Canon Marion Russell



Guidelines for Interment of Ashes in St Mary's Churchyard

Churchyards are sacred ground and very special places of peace, tranquillity and beauty.

For these and other reasons, people continue to want a churchyard burial or interment of ashes, either for themselves or for their loved ones.

We are very pleased that you are considering this churchyard and we hope this leaflet will guide you through the questions you may have.

Is the Churchyard Open?

St Mary's churchyard is open, which means that there are plots available for burials or the interment of ashes. Interment of Ashes may be permitted within the Garden of Remembrance designated areas, or in an existing family grave. Do check where the available plots are with the Vicar, Canon Marion, before setting your heart on a particular space. If you are not sure if you or your relative may be interred here, please ask Canon Marion.

Can anybody be interred in the Churchyard?

The following all have a legal right to interment of ashes in the churchyard:

- a) Anybody who lives within the parish boundary
- b) Those named on the church electoral roll
- c) Those who die in the parish

We also give sympathetic consideration to others who do not meet these criteria who have established connections with these villages or with the church .

Who is Responsible for the Care of the Grave?

The churchyard is cared for by members of the Parochial Church Council who may instruct professional gardeners or form a gardening team of volunteers to ensure its upkeep. If at any time you would like to join the gardeners, please speak to Canon Marion to arrange this.

The Final Resting Place

The nature of the rite of interment is to say 'farewell' to those who have died and to commend them to the mercy and love of God, and to await the transformation of resurrection. This means that there is a theological finality to all interments in ground consecrated according to the rites of the Church of England, including those of cremated remains. It is important, therefore, that the burial of ashes is understood as the final resting place.

In Memoriam

We do our utmost to ensure that the churchyard is a peaceful place where people can feel near to their loved ones. The church is open most days for you to come inside and pray and bring your joys, your hopes and your sorrows to God. There is a prayer table inside the church where you can light a candle in memory of your loved one and write a prayer of any kind.

Every year in November there is a special memorial service which you and your family and friends are invited to attend; you can find the date on the St Mary's Embsay Facebook page, St Mary's Embsay website, and the parish Embsay and Eastby Post website.

Are Flowers allowed on the burial place?

We recognise the importance of placing fresh flowers on the memorial stones of people we have loved. In order to keep the churchyard and cremation area beautiful, they need to be removed from wrappings or bows and we ask that flowers are removed before they decay.

We also welcome the planting of small bulbs around the interment plot.

Poppies for Remembrance Sunday and Christmas wreaths may be placed on the plot but they will be removed if they are still there more than 6 weeks later.

Is Other Ornamentation allowed?

It is important that we let you know that:

Artificial flowers, kerbs, free-standing vases, additional stones or pebbles, artificial flowers, balloons, lights and other ornamentation, **are not permitted under the Chancellor's Directions** and will be removed. This applies to both the graves and the places for cremated remains.

Who owns the Interment Plot?

Legally, every burial place is the property of the incumbent (i.e. the Vicar as office holder). However, any memorial belongs to the person who paid for its installation. After their lifetime it then belongs to the heir-at-law of the person who installed it. **That person has a duty to maintain it and has a legal liability for its safety.** This is straightforward for a stone laid with the surface level with the surrounding ground.

Can I reserve a specified plot?

This is subject to particular regulations, and requires permissions from the Vicar and Church Council with an application to the Diocesan Chancellor, which is quite time consuming and involves some cost. **First step is to speak to Canon Marion.**

How soon after the funeral can a memorial stone be placed?

A memorial plaque of designated dimensions may be laid immediately when the plot is closed after the interment of ashes. It may be laid at a later time if preferred.

What kinds of Memorial Stones are allowed?

The type of stone, its design and memorial inscription is regulated by the Diocese. To avoid any disappointment, please first find out what is permissible (see the following pages) and get this draft approved in principle by the vicar. The stonemason will then work with you on the detail and will submit a final application for approval by the vicar. This formal application must be authorised and the fee paid before the memorial is placed in the designated plot.

Please be aware that only memorials meeting the current regulations are permitted, and so it may not be possible to have memorials similar to existing memorials, which were **previously** permitted under different regulations. Once your application has been formally approved and signed, the stonemason is authorised to put the memorial in place.

**Memorials after Burial of Cremated Remains
which may be permitted
by parish clergy in St Mary's designated area**

The Vicar is given authority by the Diocese to allow the introduction of a memorial plaque to mark the place of interment which complies with the following requirements:

Materials

The following stone is permitted, with one type of stone being used consistently throughout the monument.

Sandstone, including Yorkshire stone.

Slate

Granite – honed light to dark grey only

Appearance

Polished stone or mirror finish is not permitted, nor is black, red, blue, green, white or multi-coloured granite.

Within a family grave

If cremated remains are buried in an existing family grave then the headstone may be altered, after the necessary permission is granted, to add the loved one's name; or a new headstone may be erected if necessary.

Within the cremated remains designated area

Our churchyard allows small flat inscribed memorial stones [size 15 inches by 15 inches/] and permitted vase

base to be placed where the ashes are buried in the designated area for cremated remains, without additional adornment on or around the stone.

Inscriptions

Incised lettering may be painted in gold, silver, matt white, matt black or matt grey. Plastic inserted lettering is not permitted.

The wording should be simple and dignified. Canon Marion will guide on what is permitted before authorising the application for introducing the memorial.

Badges, crests or emblems may be used provided they are seemly and are appropriate for the deceased. Any representation will need to be designed so that it may be accurately cut by a skilled craftsman.

Bronze or ceramic inserts are not to be used.

Authorisation

Please do check with the vicar for clarification and further information.

Authorisation must be formally granted for all headstones and memorial plaques, before any stonework is altered, or commissioned, or introduced, or inscriptions added, and the relevant statutory fee paid.

Memorials are permitted only for people whose earthly remains are interred in the churchyard.