

ALL SAINTS' CHURCH, Highbrook

INFORMATION REGARDING THE BURIALS, BURIALS OF ASHES AND CHURCHYARD MEMORIALS

At All Saints', we have the wonderful gift of a beautiful churchyard in which our loved ones are either buried, or have their ashes buried. This guidance relates to the burial of cremated remains, and the installation of churchyard memorials.

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) has a burial policy, which is as follows:

The following persons have a legal right to be buried in All Saints' churchyard (Canon B38(2)):

- *Anyone who is resident in the parish at the time of death*
- *Anyone who dies in the parish*
- *Anyone registered on the electoral roll at the time of death.*
- *Someone who holds a Diocesan Faculty for a grave space reservation.*

The PCC has also decided at this point to allow the following rights to burial:

- *Ex-parishioners and non-parishioners who desire to open family graves or vaults for spouses.*

No other persons can be buried in the churchyard without the consent of the Incumbent of the parish and PCC. If the Incumbent and PCC decline to allow the burial of a person who has no right of burial, their decision shall be final.

Practicalities

Burials of ashes are to be arranged directly with the Incumbent (currently Rev'd Heather Wilkin, heather.wilkin78@gmail.com 01342 529047).

It is not legal to 'scatter' ashes; they have to be appropriately buried, with our permission. It's also not possible to choose a plot for their burial, unless of course you are reusing the existing plot of a close loved one. Used plots do not 'belong' to surviving family members.

There is a statutory charge for the burial of ashes, which for 2026 is £206, whether or not you are opening up an existing burial space or using a new space. This includes optional prayers of committal, which Rev'd Heather would be delighted to arrange with you. We also charge an additional fee for the preparation of the plot.

We bury ashes by pouring them directly into the ground. This is the most environmentally friendly way of maintaining our churchyard, and is in accordance with

the Diocesan Chancellor's regulations. Please do ask Rev'd Heather about the practicalities of this if you are not sure.

Memorial Stones

After ashes have been buried, families often wish to place a memorial stone to mark the resting place of their loved one. Again, there are strict rules as to how this is to be carried out, and the correct permissions must be obtained.

The link to the application form is: <http://www.allsaints-highbrook.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2026/04/Highbrook-Ashes-Diocese-of-Chichester-Churchyard-Memorial-Application-Form.pdf>

The application form must be submitted and Rev'd Heather's consent given before any stone is made. Rev'd Heather will only authorise memorials that comply with the following churchyard regulations:

https://cofechichester.contentfiles.net/media/documents/document/2026/03/Diocese_of_Chichester_Additional_Matters_Order_No_1_of_2026.pdf

There is an additional statutory cost for the authorisation of a memorial stone:

For a small vase, tablet, plaque or other marker commemorating a person whose remains have been cremated: £96 (2026)

Additional inscription on existing monument: £39 (2026)

Any other monument (headstone for a full burial): £179 (2026)

We must be given notice of the installation date of stones, once they are authorized.

We try very hard to keep our churchyard tidy, but we rely very heavily on the work of volunteers from our village community. If you would like to help with this work, please do speak to the Vicar or churchwardens. If you would like to donate towards church funds, which include the upkeep of the churchyard, you can do so through our giving page.

Rev'd Heather Wilkin, January 2026