

ST JAMES THE GREAT, GAWSWORTH
PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL AGREED CHURCHYARD INSTRUCTIONS
CHURCHYARD NOTICE

(BASED ON THE CHESTER DIOCESAN REGULATIONS 2007)

History: On 11th September 1986, the then Parochial Church Council set out the following Churchyard Instructions. These were updated in 2007 in line with Regulations imposed by the Chester Diocese. All graves following 2007 MUST comply.

1. Only parishioners may be interred in the Churchyard with the following exceptions:
 - a) Non-residents on the Electoral Roll of the Parish, or husband, wife, child of one whose name is on the Roll.
 - b) Persons with relatives already interred in the Churchyard: father, mother, husband, wife, brother, sister or child.
 - c) Persons other than the above who die within the Parish Boundaries.
2. The Churchyard surface will be of grass, kept level without mounds and trimly mown.
3. Wreaths and fresh flowers in pots may be placed on graves, but the PCC reserve the right for their remove after a reasonable period. All permanent containers for fresh flowers shall be sunk below ground level or placed on the base of the headstone. This will help us to keep the grass cut and the Churchyard well cared for.
4. The Rector may sanction the placing of memorial monuments provided that:
 - a) Headstones do not exceed 3feet in height
 - b) Stone slabs designed to lie flat over the grave are flush with the grass so that a mower can pass over them
 - c) Crosses do not exceed 4 feet in height. (Crosses carved on the faces of headstones are preferable)
 - d) New Kerbs, or railings enclosing grave spaces will no longer be permitted.
 - e) All designs, measurements, foundations and inscriptions on monuments shall be submitted to, and approved by the Rector in writing, BEFORE THE ORDER FOR THEM IS GIVEN. The inscription must be set out to show the style of the lettering.
5. A request for any permanent memorial, which is not included under Regulation 4, will be referred by the Rector to the Diocesan Faculty Committee.

BENCHES

It has come to our notice that Benches, paving slabs and other memorabilia are appearing in the Churchyard without the express permission of the Parochial Church Council. We therefore wish to draw everyone's attention to the following points.

1. There are no more spaces for Memorial Benches until a space becomes free, due to irreparable deterioration of a previous bench.
2. All Memorial benches currently in the Churchyard are the property of the Parochial Church Council and it is their responsibility to ensure that the benches are maintained in good repair and are safe to use. Any benches found not to be safe will be taken out of use and disposed of.
3. ALL proposed additions or repairs within the Churchyard must first be approved by the Parochial Church Council **BEFORE PROCEEDING**. This includes: Benches, Curb stones, Memorial pots, Paving slabs, Statues, Memorabilia, solar lights etc. In point of fact, anything except the Headstone which has to be approved by the Rector.

PLEASE NOTE: It is no longer acceptable to just ask the Rector's permission. Chester Regulations are clear that these decisions must be made by the Parochial Church Council in accordance with the Diocese Churchyard Regulations.

APPLICATIONS FOR PERMISSION should be sent directly to the Parochial Church Council.

DONATIONS IN MEMORY OF LOVED ONES: If anyone wishes to make a donation in memory of a loved one, there is a new Church Memorial Fund which is to be used for Improvements and Maintenance of the Church and Churchyard. We would be very happy to receive donations for this fund. There is a Donations book for recording these donations at the back of Church. The PCC will publish in the magazine and on Church noticeboards the use this money is put to.

All items appearing in the Churchyard that do not comply with the above regulations will no longer be tolerated and will now be removed and placed in a container at the side of the Churchyard Shed for one month before permanent disposal.

ALL COMPLAINTS: Must be sent to the Parochial Church Council in writing:
The Secretary, Gawsworth St James Parochial Church Council,
C/o The Rectory, Church Lane, Gawsworth, Cheshire SK11 9RJ. Thank you