

Churchyard Regulations

St. Leonard's, Langho



and

St. Leonard's Old Langho



St Leonard's C of E Church Langho & Billington

There are many legalities, rules and regulations surrounding burials. All Anglican Churches in the Blackburn Diocese are bound by them and they are in place so that graveyards and other areas of remembrance remain ordered, appropriate, safe and easy to manage. This booklet is intended to offer guidance and we hope answer your questions about interment of ashes, burials and erection of monuments and in our churchyards so as to avoid potential problems and distress in the future.

Interment of Ashes at St Leonard's, Langho

- Interment of ashes here is for residents of the parish and anyone who dies whilst in the parish. Consideration may be given to those with a strong link to our parish but who have not lived here recently but this will be at the Vicars (*or Wardens if the parish is in interregnum*) discretion.
- The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is not able to reserve plots.
- Interments cannot take place without first asking the Vicar (*or Wardens if the parish is in interregnum*).
- Cremated remains may be buried in the consecrated lawn plot (not the Rose Garden) with the permission of the Vicar (*or Wardens if the parish is in interregnum*)
- Ashes will be placed directly into the soil. No caskets are permitted
- **NO** monuments (*or objects*) of any kind are allowed on any grassed area or wall adjacent to it. Neither are permanent plants, bushes, wreaths or flowers. If these are placed then we reserve the right to remove them.
- Floral tributes may be placed in the area reserved for them. No monuments or objects are allowed in here either.
- Please remove all floral tributes including wreaths once they have withered. We reserve the right to do so once this is the case.
- Although individual memorials cannot be placed in the Garden of Remembrance there is a stone memorial tablet to which individual names and years of birth and death may be added. There is a charge made by the memorial mason to do so.
- An entry of your loved ones name can be requested in our book of remembrance which is kept in the church.
- Churchyards are required by law to meet certain criteria and as a Parochial Church Council our aim is to keep the churchyard as a sacred place and a fit and proper place for your loved ones.
- Please be advised **these regulations are not optional**, as a Parochial Church Council we are obliged to make sure they are complied with. Adherence to the points made will save potential upset at a later time.

Please note that burials cannot take place at St. Leonard's, Langho and only in certain cases at St. Leonard's Old Langho

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Burials at St. Leonard's Old Langho

- Burial here is for residents of the parish, anyone who dies whilst in the parish and for those who have an existing grave with space in it. Consideration may be given to those with a strong link to our parish but who have not lived here recently but this will be at the Vicars (or *Wardens if the parish is in interregnum*) discretion.
- The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is not able to reserve new graves.
- Burials cannot take place without first asking the Vicar (or *Wardens if the parish is in interregnum*).
- We are obliged to point out that no one 'owns' a grave but you pay a fee for the privilege of burying a loved one in it.
- We cannot 'scatter' ashes here and a new grave cannot be opened just for cremated remains.
- A fee is charged for permission to place any monument. The correct procedure is to select a monumental mason of your choice (your funeral director may help you do this) then get them to discuss your requirements with the Vicar (or *Wardens if the parish is in interregnum*). Once they have approved the design and received the fee, the work can take place. We do not recommend putting up a monument until six months after the burial. (*Monument means: Gravestone, Cross, small tablet, stone vase or any other memorial made out of any material*).
- No memorial can be erected or works undertaken without the written consent of the Vicar (or *Wardens if the parish is in interregnum*).
- The maintenance of the headstone is the responsibility of the purchaser, and in the case of their death, this falls to their descendants.
- We retain the right to 'lay-down' any headstone which poses a danger.
- It should be noted that the graveyard at Old Langho can often become waterlogged. This can cause some graves to subside; if this happens then it will be the responsibility of the next of kin to rectify.
- Only a memorial within the dimensions and criteria laid out is allowed.
- The grave is to be left grassed. No edgings or gardening is allowed. All items left on the grave will be removed and disposed of without notice. Flowers are allowed to be placed in a vase built into the memorial. Wreaths or poppies will be allowed if attached to the memorial, for a short appropriate period of time. We would ask you to remove dead flowers or wreaths and we retain the right to do so when necessary.
- If you see other graves that do not conform to the criteria we set, quite simply this is not permissible and should not have taken place; we have resolved that for the future there are no more 'non-permissible' graves allowed. Churchyards are required by law to meet certain criteria and as a Parochial Church Council our aim is to keep the churchyard as a sacred place and a fit and proper place for your loved ones.
- If any shape, material, ornamentation or inscription is declined by the P.C.C., the applicant has the right to make an application for a faculty to review the decision.

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Memorials

The memorial must be erected by masons currently listed on either: The BRAMM (British Register of Memorial Masons) website: www.bramm.org or The RQMF (Register of Qualified Memorial Fixers) website: www.nammregister.org The memorial must be erected to fully comply with BS 8415 and the current edition of the NAMM Code of Working Practice. Ask to see previous work the mason has already carried out in the local area, and preferably at this churchyard. Always try to see the size and colour of the memorial you are choosing, as photographs can deceive. Ask for a scale drawing of the memorial showing the style and layout of your inscription, prior to making your final choice.

Materials

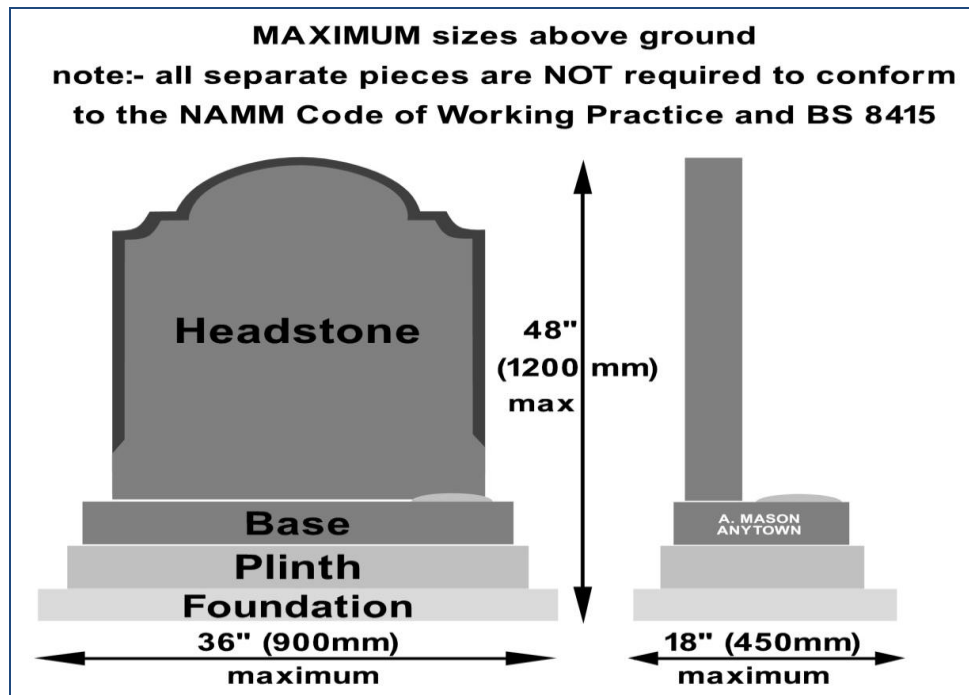
- Materials used in the memorial must harmonise with the natural local landscape and the existing memorials.
- York stone and green slate or their equivalent colours and durability are allowed. All other materials are not allowed.
- If a material not falling into the accepted category (see below) is requested, then a faculty would be required to have this.



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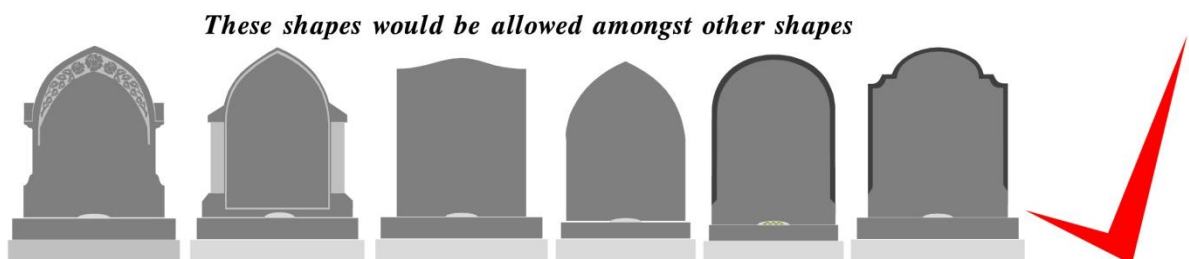
Dimensions

- Headstones – MAXIMUM dimensions including anything above ground including any plinth, base or headstone are 48" (1200 mm) high, 36" (900 mm) wide and 18" (450 mm) deep.
- The foundation must always be below ground level in St Leonard's Churchyard



Shapes

- Many shapes are acceptable that fit within the maximum dimensions and are structurally compliant with BS 8415 and the current edition of the NAMM Code of Working Practice.
- As St. Leonard's is a very old churchyard, only shapes that pre date 1918 and already exist within the churchyard will be allowed. Your local mason will be able to give you advice. However, such as open books, hearts, harps would NOT be allowed.
- The shapes below would be allowed.



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Ornamentation

- Designs and ornaments cut into the material are allowed, such as flowers and crosses, but not in colour.
- Ornamentation reflecting an occupation or hobby is not allowed.
- No photograph, cameo or portraiture of the deceased is allowed.

Inscriptions

Memorial Inscriptions Normally Have The Following

Heading In Loving Memory of
Relationship A Dear Husband, Dad & Grandad
Name BILLY JOHNSTONE
Dates Who Died 5th June 2011 Aged 58 Years
Text Always In Our Hearts

Headings

In Loving Memory of
In Memory of
Treasured Memories of
Cherished Memories of

Relationships

A Dear Husband, Dad & Grandad
A Beloved Wife, Mum & Grandma
A Loving Husband, Father and Grandfather

Name

WILLIAM JOHNSTONE
WILLIAM (BILL) JOHNSTONE
BILLY JOHNSTONE

Dates

Who Died 5th June 2011
Aged 58 Years
Who Passed Away 5th June 2011
Aged 58 Years
Who Fell Asleep 5th June 2011
Aged 58 Years
Born 29th Dec. 1956
Died 5th June 2011
29th Dec. 1956 - 5th June 2011
1956 - 2016

Texts

Always in our hearts
Forever in our thoughts
In God's keeping
Rest in peace
Life a beautiful memory, absence a silent grief
Gone from us but not forgotten
Together again

Headings NOT ALLOWED

With Love We Remember

Relationships NOT ALLOWED as not traditional

A Devoted Wife, Mummy and Nanna
Treasured Wife of David
A Much Loved Partner, Pops & Gramps

Name format NOT ALLOWED with nicknames

BILLY " JONNO" JOHNSTONE

Dates format NOT ALLOWED

29.12.56 - 5.6.11

Texts NOT ALLOWED

Simply the best
Peacefully sleeping with the angels
Finally found a place to park
Goodnight God bless
To live in the hearts of those we love is not to die

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Conclusion

- A full application must be submitted by the BRAMM/RQMF registered memorial mason to the Vicar for approval. This should show overall dimensions, method of construction, together with a scale drawing clearly showing the inscription layout, together with any ornamentation requested.
- Fees are payable for funerals, burials and interments. These are available from the Vicar and/or your Funeral Director.

When considering a burial at Old Langho, you **must** consult the Church and your local mason first and do not assume anything is allowed. Our sole intention in outlining these regulations is to keep both graveyards a sacred and appropriate place to visit the remains of your loved ones and friends.

St. Leonard's Old Langho Churchyard Benches

- The PCC regularly receive requests to place benches within the churchyard and it would be impossible to accommodate them all. Benches must not be placed in the churchyard without permission. The following rules apply:
- A maximum of 10 benches are permitted within the churchyard. Once this limit is reached further benches can only be installed as replacements for existing benches which have reached the end of their useful life. A replacement bench must generally be installed in the same location as that which is being replaced unless otherwise agreed.
- Any replacement benches must be new and must be professionally manufactured meeting all applicable commercial standards. Bench designs / materials which are onerous to maintain or have a limited life expectancy, especially softwoods will not be permitted.
- Any replacement benches will be professionally installed upon a purpose-built solid foundation. Benches will be permanently secured to their foundations to prevent unauthorised removal / relocation.
- All bench designs, foundation constructions and any proposed memorial plaques must be approved by a faculty.
- Benches remain the responsibility of the donor and it is their responsibility to ensure that they are maintained to a safe standard. The PCC reserves the right to remove any benches which have deteriorated and / or are considered unsafe.

Visitors are always welcome to both our churchyards. May we ask you to be careful when walking about, as the ground can be irregular, often very wet.

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We hope this information has been helpful

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Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you?

John 14:1-2

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Our Services (St. Leonard's, Langho)

Sundays

10.30am: Parish Communion
A service for all ages

Wednesdays

12.00pm: Midday Prayer