

Policy for Interment of Cremated Remains at All Saints, Winterton

- 1. Legal status:** The churchyard at All Saints was closed for burials in 1876. But the churchyard remains consecrated and thus has a special significance as a place 'set apart' for sacred use forever. The churchyard is rightly known as 'God's Acre'. In 1967 a faculty was granted which allows the burial of cremated remains in a defined area of the churchyard.
- 2. The defined area for the interment of cremated remains:** This is at the west end of the churchyard. The boundaries are:
 - eastern edge is the path joining Churchside to West Street
 - western edge is the boundary wall/line of mature trees
 - northern edge - in line with the north wall of the North Aisle
 - southern edge - in line with the south wall of the South Aisle
- 3. Persons whose remains may be buried:** Those whose cremated remains can be buried at All Saints include those who:
 - lived in the parish at the time of their death; or
 - died in the parish: or
 - were on the church electoral roll of the parish at the time of their deathAll Saints does, however, reserve the right to permit persons outside of these categories to have their ashes interred where there are strong pastoral grounds. The Vicar must in all cases give his or her consent to the interment of cremated remains.
- 4. The location of burial within the defined area:** This is at the discretion of the Vicar.
- 5. The significance of burial on consecrated ground:** It is important to realise that once there has been burial or interment of ashes in consecrated ground, it is permanent. There is to be no disturbance of the remains, save for exceptional reasons. This is because permanent burial of the body or the cremated remains should be seen as a symbol for our entrusting of that person into the eternal love of God, to abide in refreshment, light and peace.
- 6. Scattering of ashes:** Diocesan policy is that ashes after cremation may be interred, but not scattered, in the churchyard.
- 7. Nature of interment:** It is preferred that, at interment, the cremated remains are carefully outpoured into a shallow excavation under a section of lifted turf. But if cremated remains are buried in a container it should be of a biodegradable material e.g. cardboard or wood.
- 8. Disturbance of tree roots:** It is the policy of Winterton PCC not to disturb significant roots of mature tree in the churchyard. For this reason at some locations it may be possible only to pour cremated remains into the soil without any container.
- 9. The burial plots are to remain unmarked.** Names of the deceased will be added to a Book of Remembrance that is kept in the church. As in all churchyards, nothing can be added to the churchyard without the written permission of the vicar.
- 10. Burial locations:** All Saints will keep a record of precise burial locations.
- 11. Burial register:** All burials of cremated remains must be recorded in the burial register of the church with a note "burial of ashes".
- 12. Fees to be paid:** The fee due is for permission to bury cremated remains a churchyard (this is a set statutory fee, set each year by the Church of England), and an additional fee for the digging of the plot. The fee is not a purchase price for the burial or interment plot and the family of the deceased do not become owners of or acquire exclusive or any other rights to the plot.