

## **St Mary-the-Virgin, Kenton**

### *Policy on the Interment of Cremated Remains (adopted June 2023)*

*In committing a loved one's remains to a permanent resting place, their family and friends - with the wider Christian community - expresses the hope that, with all those who have gone before marked with the sign of faith, the deceased now awaits the glory of the resurrection. The rite of committal is an expression of the communion that exists between the Church on earth and the Church in heaven: the deceased goes to their rest with the farewell prayers of the community of believers, into the welcoming company of those who need faith no longer but see God face to face.*

The Parochial Church Council ("the PCC") of Kenton, St Mary-the-Virgin welcome applications for the interment of cremated remains in the designated memorial garden to the south of the church, where either:

- the deceased resided within the ecclesiastical parish; or
- the deceased had, at any time during their life, worshipped regularly at St Mary's for six months or more, or
- the deceased was married or prepared for Confirmation at St Mary's

The cremated remains of other deceased persons who do not meet one or more of these criteria may only be interred in pre-existing plots belonging to a family member who does themselves meet one or more of the above criteria. (The cremated remains of more than one member of the same family may be interred in the same plot.)

The reservation of plots in advance is not permitted.

A short service of committal will accompany the interment of cremated remains. The burial of ashes will be recorded in the church's registers, and logged on a plan of the garden. Ashes are poured direct into the ground, and cannot be interred in a casket. Ashes may not subsequently be removed from the memorial garden once their burial has taken place.

The interment of cremated remains is subject to payment of the statutory fee as determined by the Church of England. (Payment of the churchyard fee should be made direct to the PCC, and not via the memorial mason.)

The place in which the interment has taken place may be marked by the erection of a memorial tablet made of Nabresina stone, no larger than 17" x 11" x 2": before any such tablet is commissioned, the design and wording (incised and black) must be agreed with the incumbent, whose decision on these matters is final. Typically, this tablet will include the name and dates of the deceased, with the optional addition of an expression of faith or love, consonant with Christian belief.

No other permanent features may be introduced to mark a burial space, although appropriate seasonal floral tributes may be left on the grave from time to time. We ask families to assist us and one another with maintaining the memorial garden tidily. Unauthorised memorial items will be removed.

The erection of a memorial tablet is subject to payment of the statutory fee as determined by the Church of England.