



**The Churches of Our Lady Immaculate and Saint Cuthbert, Crook  
Saint Thomas of Canterbury, Wolsingham**  
*The Presbytery, Church Hill, Crook, Co. Durham DL15 9DN*

**Rev. Nick Jennings**  
Tel. 01388 762724

**Email:** [saintcuthbertschurchook@uwclub.net](mailto:saintcuthbertschurchook@uwclub.net)  
**Website:** [www.ourladyandstcuthbertscrook.org.uk](http://www.ourladyandstcuthbertscrook.org.uk)

**POLICY FOR CEMETERY REGULATIONS**

The following regulations are made for the good order and proper upkeep of the parish cemetery, and for the benefit of all who may visit the cemetery:

1. The cemetery is the private property owned by the trustees of the Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle. The right of burial is subject to the decrees and canons of the Catholic church.
2. Before the burial takes place, the grave will be marked by a member of the parish. As the parish is not able to provide a gravedigger, **it is now required that both for a full grave and for burial of ashes**, the bereaved ask the Funeral Director to employ a gravedigger to dig the required depth of the plot, who will also fill the grave after the burial. That cost will be included in the Funeral Director's fees.
3. A double-depth plot for a burial in the graveyard may also be requested but this must be agreed with the Parish Priest and discussed with the Funeral Director at the time of making the funeral arrangements, to be noted in parish records. For the burial of ashes in the Memorial Garden, due to limited space, if a double plot is requested – for future use - this must be a double depth plot.
4. Once a person has been interred, and if there is a space next to either side of that plot, then a plot can be reserved for a close member of the family next to their grave. Otherwise, a plot cannot be reserved in advance. No fee is charged for a reserved plot until the interment takes place. If a family member wishes to have their ashes interred in an existing family member's grave, please notify the parish priest to make the necessary arrangements.
5. **No headstone/memorial is to be erected, or any alterations made to an existing headstone/memorial, without the prior written approval of the Parish Priest. It is recommended that a period of approximately six months is allowed for the ground to settle before a headstone is erected or in the case of a memorial stone for burial of ashes, the period does not need to be so long.**
6. Only lawn-type headstones/memorials are permitted. No new kerbstones are to be erected so that the grass around can be kept in good order.

**The maximum specifications for erection of headstone/memorials are as follows:**

- a) For a grave in the churchyard:  
The Headstone (**including the base**): Width 30" (75cm) x Height 42" (107cm) x Depth 12" (31cm)
- b) For burial of ashes in the memorial garden:  
The Memorial stone/Vase (**including the base**): Width 20" (50 cm) x Height 15" (38cm) x Depth 6" (15.24cm)

**It is recommended that Headstones** should be fixed using the "Monolith" method, which fully complies with British Safety Standard BS8415. This method is clearly approved by NAMM (the National Association of Memorial Masons). The base used for the headstone should not be of a size in excess of the size of the actual foundations for the headstone.

**Any designs or drawings should be essentially Christian in nature. If not, or if otherwise considered by the Parish Priest to be unsuitable, permission for their installation or continuation may be withheld or withdrawn.**

7. If anyone wishes to install a bench in the graveyard, the size, design and location must be agreed with the parish priest, be fixed securely to the ground and be kept well maintained. If it falls into disrepair, the bench will be removed and disposed of, and any plaque returned to the family.
8. It is the responsibility of the Funeral Director to liaise with the parish Priest and to make all necessary arrangements for a funeral and or committal as agreed with the Parish Priest.