



Diocese of Chelmsford in Essex and East London .

ST MARY THE VIRGIN, LITTLE BADDOW

Churchyard Regulations

For centuries the parishioners of Little Baddow have been laid to rest in the churchyard of St Mary's Parish Church and it is hoped this will continue for many years to come in our churchyard extension. Anyone who lives in the Parish of Little Baddow is entitled to be buried here.

However, the churchyard is owned by the Church of England and the Chancellor of the Diocese has legal responsibility to enforce rules which have been enacted. There is no legal right to place a memorial or any other items in the churchyard, permission must be obtained first.

Personal items, ornaments and decorations are not permitted to be placed on graves under Church of England regulations. However, we at St Marys do understand that immediately after the burial is a difficult time so we allow items placed on the grave after burial to remain until we grass over the grave a few months later.

Headstones of certain dimensions are allowed, with a single flower vase incorporated in the base.

The only plastic or artificial flowers allowed are poppies for Remembrance Sunday, wreaths at Christmas and, on the anniversary of the death of the person who has died, for two weeks.

The introduction of any kind of fencing, edging or enclosure of the grave is not allowed nor is the use of chippings or stones. This is for the practical reason that it makes maintenance of the churchyard very difficult.

It is hoped the churchyard of St Mary's will always provide comfort to the bereaved and a haven of peace and tranquillity.

The full text of the Churchyard Handbook of the Diocese of Chelmsford can be seen in the Church.

Churchwardens: Graham Lennard, John Wheeldon. Priest-in-charge: The Revd Canon Jacqui Jones.