



POLICY - THE GARDENS OF REMEMBRANCE AND MEMORIALS

1. St Peter's Church, St Albans has two dedicated areas in the churchyard (the Old Garden of Remembrance and the Garden of Hope) to be used as Gardens of Remembrance for the interment of cremated remains or simply as a memorial to a loved one.
2. The old Garden of Remembrance is closed for further burials, except when a family member's remains may be added to an existing plot, but it is possible to apply to the Vicar of St Peter's for permission to place a plaque in one of the side flowerbeds as a memorial to someone whose remains have been buried there.
3. The Garden of Hope is available for new interments of ashes. If desired, an application may be made to the Vicar of St Peter's for permission to have a memorial leaf attached to the Tree of Life sculpture in memory of someone whose remains have been buried in the grass area in front of the sculpture or as a memorial to a loved one.
4. The Garden of Hope may be available to other residents of the City and District of St Albans, as well as parishioners of St Peter's or those with a long-standing connection to St Peter's, by permission of the Vicar of St Peter's.
5. The PCC will ensure that the area is maintained to a reasonable standard to provide an uncluttered and safe environment for visitors and maintenance contractors, and the layout and maintenance instructions detailed below will apply to both new and existing interments/memorials in both areas.
6. Old Garden of Remembrance – the permitted design of a memorial is a rectangular plaque attached to a stake to insert into the ground in the side flowerbeds, not in the central grass area. Small bunches of fresh flowers or seasonal tributes may at any one time be laid on the grass area.
7. The Garden of Hope – the permitted design of a memorial is an engraved leaf attached to the Tree of Life sculpture. A small bunch of fresh flowers, or a small seasonal tribute may at any one time be left in the sunken vases incorporated in the plinth surrounding the sculpture. Flowers may not be left on the grass area in front of the sculpture.
8. In both Gardens, the flowers will be removed for maintenance of the garden and only put back if still in fresh condition.
9. No further tributes, eg flower vases, urns, crosses, planted items, artificial flowers, toys, candles etc, are permitted in the Gardens. Any items deemed unsuitable and brought to the site contrary to the above advice will be removed without notice by the relevant church officers acting with the authority of the Vicar and Churchwardens.
10. Applications for a memorial in one of the Gardens should be made on the relevant form, obtainable from the Church Office, and sent to the Vicar for consideration.
11. In respect of all new interments/memorials, relatives who wish to have ashes interred and/or the placing of a memorial will be required to sign a copy of this policy to confirm they undertake to ensure the Gardens are kept in a neat, tidy, safe and uniform manner as specified above. The signatory of the application will be responsible for making all other relatives and friends aware of the policy regarding the maintenance of the Gardens.
12. In respect of existing interments/memorials, the above policy will be brought to the attention of the relevant families at the earliest opportunity and given a period of three months from the date of notification to comply fully with the terms of the policy. On expiry of the three month period, any unsuitable items remaining in the Gardens will be removed.