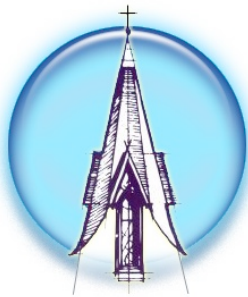


All Correspondence to be addressed to:
THE PARISH CLERK



St. Peters Parish Church
Kirk Onchan
Onchan Burial Authority

Parish Office (Rear of Vicarage)
Church Road
Onchan
Isle of Man IM3 1BF
Tel (01624) 675797
enquiries@stpeterschurch.org.im

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Onchan Churchyard is consecrated ground and, by law, must be managed and maintained in a way that is compatible with the Christian religion and appropriate for a holy place. Proper order must be kept, out of respect for those who have died and for the benefit of those whose loved ones are buried there. Onchan Churchyard is subject to the faculty jurisdiction of the Consistory Court of the Diocese of Sodor and Man. This means that official permission must be obtained before any alterations or additions are made. The Vicar has authority from the Vicar General, chancellor of the Consistory Court, to give approval for memorials and inscriptions that conform to certain specifications. A copy of these specifications can be obtained from the Onchan Parish Office and details have been provided to funeral directors and monumental masons. For any other memorials, inscriptions or other alterations or additions, a faculty must be obtained from the Consistory Court and will be given only in exceptional circumstances.

1.2 A copy of these regulations is displayed in the porch of Onchan parish church (St Peter's Church) and copies have been provided to local funeral directors and monumental masons. All who work in this churchyard are asked to bring these regulations to the attention of relatives before any interment (body or ashes) or if considering the introduction of any memorial.

2. REGULATIONS

2.1 No grave may be dug or re-opened without the permission of the Vicar. The Vicar may authorise the sexton to give permission on his behalf.

2.2 No burials (body or cremated remains) may take place without prior notice to the Vicar.

2.3 Ashes must be reverently disposed of by burial and may not be scattered.

2.4 Private burial plots may be purchased for full burials and for the burial of cremated remains at the discretion of the Vicar and Churchwardens. The sale of private plots may be subject to such conditions as the Vicar and Churchwardens deem appropriate, such as a requirement that the deceased was resident in the parish at the date of death or had a strong connection with the parish. Details of current fees and conditions may be obtained from the Parish Office.

2.5 Private burial plots will not be reserved or sold in advance of death.

2.6 The Churchwardens have responsibility for the maintenance of the Churchyard as a whole and the sexton (on behalf of the Churchwardens) may carry out such maintenance, including on private burial plots, as the Churchwardens consider appropriate. The Churchwardens will not provide perpetual care and will not undertake special maintenance on any particular burial plot.

2.7 The design (including details of the inscription) of any proposed memorial is to be submitted in writing for approval by the Vicar and Churchwardens. The Vicar and Churchwardens reserve the right to refuse any design for a memorial they consider for any reason to be unsuitable. If approval of a design is refused by the Vicar and Churchwardens, an application may be made to the Consistory Court for a faculty at the expense of the applicant.

2.8 Headstones of unusual shape, size or style will not be approved. The size and colour of new headstones must, whenever possible, conform with those in the same area of the Churchyard. Details of the specification for generally permissible memorials can be obtained from the Parish Office.

2.9 No ornaments, toys, windmills, lights, chimes, musical devices or other objects will be allowed. Permission must be obtained for vases which must be durable and fixed in place on or near the headstone and must not impede grass mowing. Objects placed on graves without permission will be removed and disposed of.

2.10 Good quality wreaths may be laid on graves at Christmas and for Remembrance Day. Christmas wreaths must be removed by the end of Epiphany (2nd February) and Remembrance wreaths must be removed after one month. Fresh flowers must be removed once faded. The Churchwardens may arrange for wilted and faded flowers to be cleared away, No shrubs or trees may be planted on graves. Spring bulbs planted to naturalised in the grass on graves are permitted but no other planting.

2.11 Chippings may be used only on graves in areas of the Churchyard where chippings have already been used and must, whenever possible, conform in type and colour with those in the same area.

2.12 Written permission must be obtained from the Vicar to instal kerbs and they will only be permitted in areas where there are kerbs already.

2.13 Memorials in the Garden of Remembrance are to be brass plaques affixed to the wall and in the style approved by the Vicar and Churchwardens. Plaques may ordered through the Parish Office. Flowers may be placed in the small vases affixed to the wall.

2.14 The Vicar and Churchwardens reserve the right to refuse any design for a memorial they consider for any reason to be unsuitable. If approval of a design is refused by the Vicar and Churchwardens, an application may be made to the Consistory Court for a faculty at the expense of the applicant.

2.15 No memorial may be erected until the design has been approved in writing and the applicable fees have been paid in full.

2.16 No changes or additions (including additional inscriptions) may be made to any memorial without the prior written approval of the Vicar and Churchwardens.

2.17 The maintenance of a memorial (headstone or any other) on a grave is the responsibility of the family of the deceased. It is the family's responsibility to keep it in good condition and safe. If in the opinion of the Vicar and Churchwardens a memorial is unsafe, they may take such steps, including laying a headstone flat, as they deem necessary to make the grave safe and may recoup all costs incurred from the owner.

2.18 The Churchwardens may designate areas of the Churchyard as lawned sections and no kerbs or other objects (other than headstones) will be permitted in those sections. The present 1980 section, including the Garden of Remembrance, and the cremation plots at the bottom of the 1928 yard have been designated as lawned sections and must be kept clear for mowing at all times.

2.19 No work of any sort may be undertaken in the Churchyard except with the prior approval of the Vicar and Churchwardens (or the sexton on their behalf). All work must be supervised by the sexton or, in his absence, by a Churchwarden. Only contractors approved by the Vicar and Churchwardens may dig graves or erect memorials. The Vicar and Churchwardens reserve the right to refuse to approve a contractor.

2.20 Dogs are not allowed in the Churchyard unless kept on a short lead and prevented from fouling. Dog excrement must be immediately removed and disposed of by the dog handler.

By Order of the Vicar & Churchwardens
Endorsed by resolution of the Onchan Parochial Church Council