

# St. Mary-the-Virgin, Horsell

## Churchyard Burial Policy

Under the Diocesan Churchyard Regulations 2005 certain people have the right to be buried in St. Mary's Churchyard and others may be granted permission by the Incumbent, having regard to the guidance of the Parochial Church Council.

This burial policy has been prepared by the Parochial Church Council of St. Mary's Church Horsell to assist families and funeral directors so that they are aware where burials or interments can take place in the St. Mary's Churchyard.

Those who can be buried in the St. Mary's Churchyard as of right so long as space remains available:

- Anyone resident in the parish of Horsell
- Anyone who dies in the parish of Horsell
- Anyone who is on the Church electoral roll of St. Mary the Virgin, Horsell
- Anyone who already has a reserved grave space formally granted by Diocesan Faculty (it being noted that the PCC resolved a while ago, in view of the decreasing space in the churchyard that no further reserved spaces should be permitted)

Burials will also be permitted:

- Where a family member is to be buried in another family member's burial plot and there is sufficient depth in the grave to allow for compliance with local authority and all other necessary regulations for the burial

Because the general assumption is that funerals in the Church of England take place in the parish in which the deceased is resident at the time of death and because of the PCC's desire to ensure that St. Mary's Churchyard will be available for those with a right to be buried there for as long as possible, the Incumbent is advised by the PCC, unless there are overriding pastoral reasons, only to permit other burials in the following circumstances:

- For someone who has resided in the parish of Horsell for a period of no less than five years and who prior to death ceased that residence on account of ill health or frailty to move to a nursing home, care home, or to live in the same residence as other relatives
- For someone who was on the Church electoral roll of St. Mary the Virgin, Horsell for a period of no less than five years and who no more than three years prior to death ceased to be on that roll on account of ill health or frailty

Cremated remains may be interred as of right in the Churchyard for:

- a family member whose ashes are to be interred with the ashes of another family member which have already been interred in the Churchyard
- Anyone resident in the parish
- Anyone who dies in the parish
- Anyone who is on the Church electoral roll

The Incumbent has discretion to permit the cremated remains to be interred for:

- Anyone the Incumbent considers has a close connection with the parish of Horsell or St. Mary the Virgin, Horsell'

Approved at the Parochial Church Council meeting held on 21st January 2014