

For Health and Safety reasons, **Glass Containers are NOT permitted** in the Cemetery.

### Access

On occasions there may be an interment in an adjacent grave and we may have to erect a cover over your monument and grave to protect it; soil may be placed on this cover and your grave may be inaccessible for a few days. In extreme circumstances, it may be necessary to remove your monument for safety reasons. We will be fully responsible for restoring your monument in a safe and clean state after the funeral.

### Vandalism

Whilst vandalism is a very rare event in our cemeteries, it can occur from time to time. The Council cannot be held liable for any damage caused by the irresponsible actions of others, although we will prosecute anyone caught causing vandalism. We strongly recommend that grave owners take out insurance to protect their property.

### Other Information available from Bereavement Services:

A Guide to Exclusive Rights of Burial  
Table of Fees and Charges  
A Guide to Tiverton Cemetery  
Grave Options and Terms  
The Charter for the Bereaved  
A Guide to Organising a Funeral  
Funeral Organisers: Rules & Regulations  
Helpful Organisations at a time of Bereavement  
Regulations: Memorial Masons  
Service Standards & Complaints Procedure  
A list of Approved Contractors  
Continuous Improvement

### Contact Details:

Bereavement Services Office  
Phoenix House, Phoenix Lane,  
Tiverton, EX16 6PP

Tel: 01884 234343

Fax: 01884 234256

[propertyservices@middevon.gov.uk](mailto:propertyservices@middevon.gov.uk)

### Bookings and Records

Tiverton Cemetery: 01884 234343

Crediton Cemetery: 01884 234343

6/09



# A Guide to Monuments



Mid Devon District Council is a member of the Institute of Cemetery and Crematorium Management and has adopted 'The Charter for the Bereaved'

### Charter for the Bereaved- Your Rights

#### Right 5:

You have the right to place a memorial within the constraints of regulations in force or to leave the grave unmarked.

## **Right 6:**

You have the right and responsibility to maintain the memorial upon the grave during the period of grave rights granted to you, or any extension made to this period. The memorial cannot be disturbed or moved during this period, without your express permission, unless it poses a safety hazard. The safe erection and maintenance of the memorial is your responsibility.

## **Right 7:**

Except where the Charter members are the sole supplier of memorials, you have the right to use any memorial mason of your choice, provided they are not prohibited by the Charter member.

*(The Charter for the Bereaved)*

## **What is a Monument?**

A monument is anything above the level of the ground that is placed on the grave as a tribute to those buried there. It could take many forms and may include stone, wood and plants.

## **Can I have a monument?**

To place a monument on a grave you must first purchase the grave. This entails a one off fee that gives you Exclusive Rights of Burial for the grave and the right to erect a monument of a period of thirty or seventy five years. This period may be extended after the initial period is up. (Exclusive Rights of Burial are described in the leaflet of the same name).

## **When can I erect it?**

After a funeral, we will mound the earth on the grave and put the flowers and wreaths on top. After a month (or less if the weather is bad) we will remove all floral tributes and dispose of them. Please do not plant anything directly into the mound. Flowers may be left in a container (not glass, ceramic or thin plastic) and you may put a wooden cross up to 450mm (18") high on the grave temporarily. When six months has passed you may erect a permanent monument. There is no need to wait until the end of the six months to apply however.

## **Must I use a Stonemason?**

No, but if you do – they must be members of our 'Approved Contractor Scheme' (a list of all approved contractors is available from our office) and they will usually advise you and then submit an application on your behalf.

## **How do I apply to put a monument there myself?**

If you do not wish to use a stonemason you must submit your own application on a form available from us. You must satisfy us that you are competent to construct the memorial yourself. We will inspect the monument as it is built and may ask you to remove or rebuild any monument that we do not consider to be safe.

## **Can I keep a mound of earth on all or part of the grave?**

Yes – if you wish to leave a mound upon the grave you still need to apply to us to do so.

However mounds will NOT be allowed in the new extension on the plots pre fixed with E. If you do not express to keep the mound by six months after the funeral we will remove the mound. If you keep a mound on the grave you must arrange to cut the grass regularly or have it cut for you.

Unkempt mounds may be removed.

## **What kind of memorial can I have?**

You may apply to have any kind of memorial you like. We will consider each memorial on its own merits and will generally approve any monument as long as it is not in bad taste and is sufficiently well constructed to be safe for at least the period of the Rights. If we refuse permission you will be given a full written explanation. The type of monument you want may be limited by the area of the cemetery your grave is in.

Full Kerb sets shall only be permitted in the new Tiverton extension in plot EA.