

What do I need to think about?

The minimum time between the burial and putting up a memorial is six months as the ground needs time to settle. Before you get too far with your plans, please talk to your vicar (parish priest) to avoid difficulties and disappointment later in the process.

You will need to decide whether you want to commission an individual memorial, perhaps created by an artist, or choose a more standard design from a catalogue. Once you have a clearer idea, you'll need to fill in a form which your vicar will give you.

The vicar is allowed to authorise simple headstones, provided that they comply with the Churchyard Regulations.

In less straightforward cases, you will need to apply to the Chancellor of the Diocese for permission (a 'Faculty'), for which there is a fee. Your vicar will be able to advise you about how to apply.

The Churchyard Regulations are available in full on the diocesan website www.oxford.anglican.org/registry/churchyard_regs.html

In summary, the key points are:

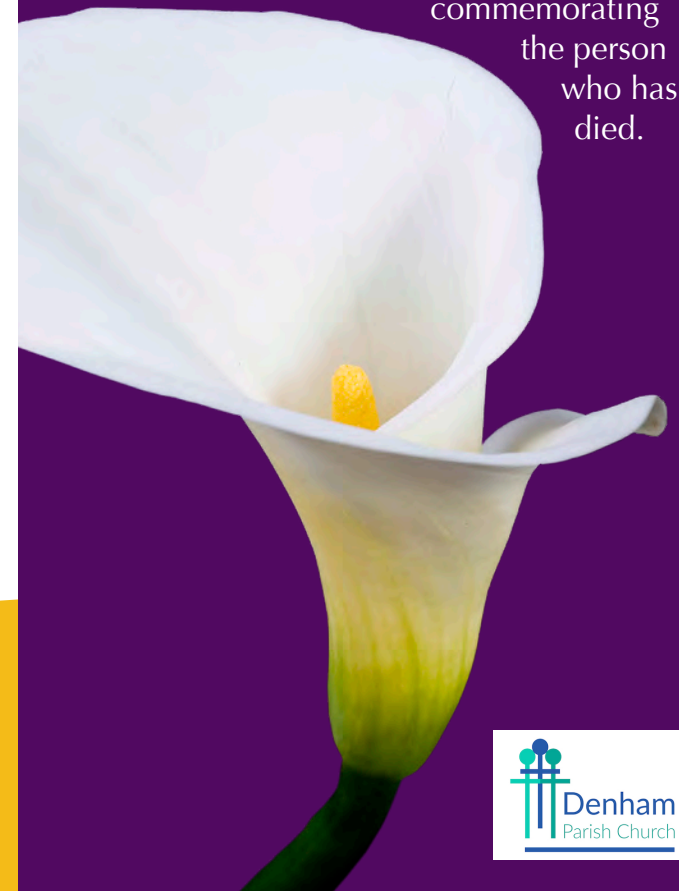
- **Materials:** Natural stone, with a non-reflecting surface, or hardwood only. Stones traditionally used in local buildings are preferred.
- **Size:** No higher than 1200mm (4ft); no wider than 900mm (3ft); no thicker than 150mm (6 inches); no smaller than 75mm (3 inches) in thickness, except for slate which may be 38mm (1 1/2 inches).
- **Designs:** No portraits or photographs on the headstone; no fencing, railings, chains, chippings or glass shades; no heart shaped stones. No sculptures or statues. No lights.
- **Inscriptions:** Inscriptions must be simple, reverent and theologically acceptable; they may include appropriate quotations from the scriptures or literary sources.
- **Upkeep:** Graves may not be fenced; no individual gardens. Only cut flowers, wreaths or seasonally appropriate silk flowers. No plastic flowers. Toys or similar ornaments may be left for a period of 12 months only, and then removed.

When someone you love has died

When someone you love has died, it is a time of sadness and pain. The Church is here to help you through your bereavement. Please be assured of our thoughts and prayers.

There is a lot to think about as you adjust to your loss and it can be a bewildering time. This leaflet is intended to help answer some of the questions you might have about

commemorating
the person
who has
died.



*Set your troubled hearts at rest.
Trust in God always; trust also in me.
There are many dwelling-places in my Father's
house. John 14: 1-2*

www.denhamparish.church



