

respond to such requests, the church reserves the right to carry out remedial work. This may involve collapsing the headstone or removing it altogether.

11. It is prohibited by law to disturb human remains. If the intention is to bury more than one person in the grave, it is important to tell the funeral director at the time of opening the grave. No more than three full burials are allowed in one plot and this is only possible if the grave has been made deep enough to accommodate multi burials. Ashes can be interred on the top of graves, subject to a survey to ensure no remains are disturbed.

### **Conclusion**

The purpose of this policy is to ensure cemeteries are managed in a manner befitting of places that hold the remains of those we love. It is emphasised that individuals purchase the rights to burial/interment of ashes. The land remains the property of the Church and can be managed as described in this policy.

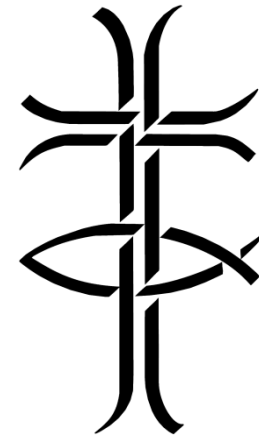
Please speak to an Elder of the Church or the Minister if you want to know more. We pray that our efforts will bring you some comfort and assure you that we have great regard for the remains of those departed this life. May they rest in peace.

# The Landsker Pastorate

[www.landskerpastorate.co.uk](http://www.landskerpastorate.co.uk)

United Reformed Churches at  
Crundale; Keyston; Nolton Haven; Spittal; Tiers Cross &  
Wolfsdale.

**Together in Ministry and Mission**



## Cemetery Management Policy

## Introduction

This policy applies to all the URC owned cemeteries in the Landsker Pastorate, with the exception of Nolton Haven. Nolton Haven's cemetery is owned and managed by Pembrokeshire County Council and their rules apply.

The purpose of this policy is to outline the rules that have been set by church meetings to ensure our cemeteries remain suitable resting places for the dead and to allow for continued maintenance of the cemetery.

Fees for full burials or interment of ashes are published by each local church and this service is available to anyone. There is no requirement for church membership and our cemeteries can be used by people of different faiths. However, the rules apply to all who purchase burial rights and cannot be deviated from on the grounds of faith.

The cemetery ground remains the property of the local URC and in the event of any issues or concerns, the local church meeting must decide on a course of action.

## Rules

1. Before opening a grave or preparing a new one, the Funeral Director must make contact with the church. This includes interment plots for ashes.

2. All graves will be in proper rotation with a distance of at least four feet from the centre of one grave to the centre of the next. It is not possible to pre book a particular grave plot as this causes difficulty in opening new graves. Interment plots for ashes may be in a separate area of the cemetery and Funeral Directors need to check on this.

3. No funeral may take place on a Sunday, Good Friday or Christmas Day unless the church makes an exception in times of national emergency.

4. The Minister shall officiate at all graveside funerals but may appoint a substitute subject to discussion with Funeral Directors.

5. Cemeteries are, in the main, lawned cemeteries. This makes maintenance and grass cutting easier. Relatives are encouraged to maintain the grave but any planting must be confined to vases, pots or urns located near the base of the headstone. In Zion's Hill, Spittal and Bethel, Wolfsdale, graves may be fully covered in the current rows. New rows will be designated as lawned graves.

6. To maintain access for all, kerb stones, vases, fencing, gravel chippings or other memorials covering the full length of the grave are not permitted. (Except for Zion's Hill, Spittal and Bethel, Wolfsdale.) Vases must be placed near the headstone. Should relatives cease to maintain the grave or do not wish to maintain the grave, it is important that nothing is placed on or near the headstone and grave that inhibits maintenance or cutting of the lawn. The church will cause such items to be removed and can seek compensation for any costs incurred.

7. Headstones must be no bigger than 36" high and 30" wide. They can only be erected by qualified stonemasons.

8. Inscriptions on headstones must not cause offence. Whilst welcoming diversity, inappropriate wording on headstones will not be allowed.

9. Existing graves with full coverings can still be used for subsequent burials, but family members will meet the cost of removing the covering/kerbs and ensuring the grave is returned to a safe condition.

10. Whilst the church remains the owner of the land, the purchaser of a right to burial and /or their heirs are responsible for keeping the graves in a safe condition. In the event of headstones becoming unsafe or the grave becoming cluttered with memorabilia, the church will ask for financial assistance to remedy the matter. In the event that relatives/heirs do not