

GROBY PARISH COUNCIL



STREWING / SCATTERING OF CREMATED ASHES

Policy and Procedure

INTRODUCTION

Groby Parish Council has now introduced a policy respecting the strewing or scattering of cremated ashes within the “Garden of Remembrance” at Groby Village Cemetery.

It is intended that this policy will cover the broad common issues and will be reviewed in line with the current Cemetery Regulations in force at Groby Village Cemetery. Please note that the “Garden of Remembrance” is not a cemetery, so once the ashes have been scattered, they are neither identifiable nor retrievable. Memorials in the form of tree, shrub planting, benches and memorial plaques are available in the Garden of Remembrance.

OBJECTIVES OF THE POLICY

The Council is seeking to ensure that it is adopting a clear, measurable and sympathetic approach to the management of its facilities, which will take account of the sometimes contrasting needs of a variety of cemetery users.

Any complaints relating to the implementation of the policy will be dealt with through the Council’s Corporate Complaints Procedure.

GENERAL

1. All applications to scatter ashes in the “Garden of Remembrance” should be completed on the **OFFICIAL SERVICE REQUEST FORM** and be signed by the applicant. Only applications from the next of kin or executor will be considered.
2. No memorials will be allowed on the site where ashes have been scattered. The next of kin or executor may purchase a memorial plaque, bench, tree or shrub to be placed within the Garden of Remembrance.
3. The council reserves the right to remove any memorials placed without the agreement of the council.

PROCEDURE - GARDEN OF REMEMBRANCE

The passing of close relatives or friends is always a time of sorrow and stress, but within the quiet and peaceful grounds of Groby Village Cemetery, everything has been done to make the occasion as reverent, as consoling and as respectful as possible.

Groby Parish Council has created a "Garden of Remembrance", which although not consecrated, is dedicated to the dead of all religions and non-believers. Bereaved people can visit this garden for some quiet solace and contemplation and memorials in the form of tree or shrub planting is available.

The cremated remains may be strewn in one of the four designated areas within the Garden of Remembrance.

The ashes are not allowed to be scattered in one solid mass on the ground and will be scattered evenly, covered with light soil and aggregate shortly after the strewing to help preserve the beauty of the strewing area and encourage the remains to return to the earth.

The area in which the cremated remains are strewn is then recorded in the register for future reference. It is important to consider that once scattering has taken place **cremated remains cannot be removed, individually located, or marked within the scattering areas**. Cremated remains scattered in the Gardens of Remembrance are not contained in a casket or urn, and only a general location is recorded.

Where relatives of the deceased have previously been scattered within the Garden of Remembrance, it is possible for other relatives to be strewn in the same area following their cremation (the full name and date of death of the previous deceased relative will be required).

Appointments to witness the strewing of Cremated Remains

The strewing of your loved one's cremated remains in a designated area can be done by a member of our staff, or carried out by you and witnessed by a member of staff.

An appointment can be arranged for a mutually convenient date and time to allow relatives to attend and witness the final disposal of the cremated remains within the Garden of Remembrance. (Monday to Friday 9.30pm to 3.00pm).

Should the relatives desire, a minister may be engaged to read a short form of service. This would be arranged by and at the expense of the applicant.

On arrival a member of the Cemetery staff will meet the family.

If the cremated remains are delivered to the cemetery at the time of the appointment, the Cemetery Sexton will need to transfer the cremated remains into a specially designed container, before strewing can take place.

The Cemetery Sexton will strew the cremated remains in the presence of relatives.

However, if a family member would like to strew the cremated remains themselves the Parish Council Cemetery Office should be informed, whereupon instructions will be provided to the family prior to the strewing taking place.

No memorials will be permitted in the area where the strewing has taken place, although floral tributes can be left in floral tribute area. Floral tributes are left for exactly 2 weeks before disposal.

At times such as Fathers' day and Mothers' day we leave flowers an extra week. At Christmas we leave Christmas wreaths until the last day in January when the grounds are cleared.

It is a criminal offence to dispose of cremated remains within the cemetery without permission.

Leased memorials

As it is not possible to have a memorial placed where the cremated remains are scattered, our memorial scheme provides a lasting, commemorative tribute to loved ones, and is available within the Garden of Remembrance in the form of engraved granite plaques displayed on the raised sides of the water feature, the scattering beds and rose beds.

The plaques, measure 6" x 4" (150mmx100mm) and can have up to six lines of inscription engraved and lettered gold. There is a space for a maximum of 116 letters, spaces or figures on each line and a grid is provided on the application form for you to map your requirements within these limits. No deviation from material, colour of plaque or inscription can be permitted. The final size of the lettering will be determined by the number of characters on each line.

Memorials are available for leasing over ***an initial twenty year*** period during which time they will be on display in the Garden of Remembrance. Within this period, new replacement plaques can be ordered to incorporate other names. A charge will be made for amended plaques. Plaques are placed in the Garden of Remembrance within approximately four weeks of ordering. The leases will not commence until the plaque has been fitted. Plaques will be allocated in strict rotation and once fitted cannot be re-sited.

At the end of the initial period, the lease can be renewed for a further ten to twenty years on payment of a further lease fee. If the option to renew is not taken up at the end of elapsed period the plaque will be removed and the space reallocated. Spaces for plaques cannot be reserved in advance but, as stated above, plaques can be changed to incorporate other names.

Because of the limited space available within the Garden of Remembrance and to protect the aesthetic appearance of the scheme, floral tributes and other items cannot be accommodated and will be removed. However, floral tributes may be placed within the designated Floral Tribute Area situated within the Garden of Remembrance. The public's co-operation in this regard would be much appreciated.

Wall plaque



The granite wall plaque is available to lease for an initial period of 20 years. The price includes the purchase of the granite plaque (6"x4.") and a total of 116 letters of inscription.

When the lease is due to expire, you will be contacted and invited to renew the lease for a further period of 10 or 20 years.

Rose with plaque



The roses are already planted and established ready for dedication. All the roses are available to be leased for an initial period of 5 years.

The plaque and stainless steel spike is included in the purchase price. If the lease on your rose is due to expire, you will be contacted by post inviting you to renew the lease for a further period of 5 years.

PLEASE NOTE – ♦ The Rose shrubs do on occasions fall victim to disease and need to be removed. Should this occur we will plant a new rose shrub as close to the original as possible.

Individual Memorial tree

This memorial is available to lease for an initial period of 5 years and includes the purchase of a plaque and stainless steel spike. There are several trees available for dedication within the Garden of Remembrance. If the lease on your memorial tree is due to expire, you will be contacted by post inviting you to renew the lease for a further period of 5 years.

PLEASE NOTE – ♦ Although uncommon, trees do, on occasions fall victim to disease and need to be felled. We will endeavour to plant a new tree as close to the original as possible. Where the original tree was mature, a stump will be left above ground, the grantee has the choice to place their plaque adjacent to the newly planted tree or the stump of the original.

Memorial Bench

A limited number of Memorial Benches are available to lease for an initial period of 20 years. The price includes the purchase of the plaque (150mmx100mm) and 5 lines of inscription (116 characters). When the lease is due to expire, you will be contacted and invited to renew the lease for a further period of 10 years. (The fee is dependent on whether the bench is in a safe and sound condition).

If you would like to discuss the memorial options with a member of the Parish Council staff, please contact the Parish office and ask to speak to a member of staff.

Cremation Scattering Methods

Raking Ashes: the ashes are poured from the scattering urn evenly on loose soil and raked into the ground at the conclusion of the scattering ceremony. This is the most common form of scattering ashes within the Garden of Remembrance.

Trenching Ashes: this is done on one of the raised beds within the Garden of Remembrance when a shallow trench or groove is dug in the soil. The trench is filled from the scattering urn and raked over at the conclusion of the ceremony. You can get creative and dig the person's name in the soil, maybe inside a heart, then fill the void with the ashes. If it is not too windy, candles can go in the ground alongside the trench for a more spiritual feel (these will be removed by the Cemetery Sexton post ceremony after a period of time)

Ringing Ashes: This is when a ring is formed in the raised bed around an object or even a group of objects, it can be with or without a trench. The scattering urn will need to be held close to the ground when pouring the ring.

Casting Ashes: is the act of simply tossing the ashes to the wind. Usually done by one individual while others look on. Care and consideration of others should be used when casting. Check the direction of the wind and cast down wind. The ashes are mostly made up of dense sand like matter and will quickly fall to the ground but some of it will be a fine powder and this will become airborne forming a cloud. Casting can also be done as a group. People can take turns scattering a little at a time.

Planning your Service

As you fulfil your loved one's wishes to be cremated and scattered, you may want to have close friends and family who are attending the scattering each read a poem or verse. We have enclosed some ideas for you.

The Comfort and Sweetness of Peace

*After the clouds, the sunshine,
after the winter, the spring,
after the shower, the rainbow,
for life is a changeable thing.
After the night, the morning,
bidding all darkness cease,
after life's cares and sorrows,
the comfort and sweetness of peace.*

*We little knew that morning
God was to call your name.
In life we loved you dearly,
in death we do the same.
It broke our hearts to lose you,
You did not go alone.
For part of us went with you
The day God called you home.
You left us beautiful memories,
Your love is still our guide,
And though we cannot see you,
You are always at our side.
Our family chain is broken,
and nothing seems the same,
But as God calls us one by one,
The chain will link again.*

MISS ME - BUT LET ME GO

*When I come to the end of the road
And the sun has set for me
I want no rites in a gloom-filled room.
Why cry for a soul set free?
Miss me a little--but not too long
And not with your head bowed low.
Remember the love that we once shared
Miss me--but let me go.
For this is a journey that we all must take
And each must go alone. It's all a part of the
Master's plan
A step on the road to home.
When you are lonely and sick of heart
Go to the friends we know
And bury your sorrows in doing good deeds.
Miss Me - But Let me Go!
Author Unknown*

*Our joys will be greater
Our love will be deeper
Our lives will be fuller
Because we shared your moment*

*Where I have gone I am not so small.
My soul is as wide as the world is tall.
I have gone to answer the call, the call
Of the One who takes care of us all.
Wherever you look, you will find me there-
In the heart of a rose,
In the heart of a prayer.
On butterflies' wings, on wings of my own,
To you, I'm gone,
But I'm never alone-
I am home*

He Only Takes the Best

*God saw that he was getting tired,
A cure was not to be.
So He put His arms around him
and whispered, "Come with Me."
With tearful eyes, we watched him suffer,
And saw him fade away.
Although we loved him dearly,
We could not make him stay.
A golden heart stopped beating,
Hard working hands to rest.
God broke our hearts to prove to us
He only takes "the best".*

*Perhaps they are not
stars in the sky,
but rather openings
where our loved ones
shine down
to let us know they
are happy.*

*'Say not in grief 'he is no more' but
live in thankfulness that he was'*

Hebrew proverb

Goodbye To My Dad

*Goodbye Dad, I had to say
A few months ago on a cold winter day
I'll remember the good times and try not to be sad
But saying goodbye still hurts so bad
I miss you more than I can express
My love for you will never grow less
I keep trying to imagine how I will go on
I realise tomorrow is another dawn
I know you're in heaven above
Looking down on us with all your love
Only to whisper in our ear
Remember that I'll never stopped loving you dear
I'll always remember the good times we had
Remember the man, my wonderful Dad
I'll remember you each and every day
And if I need to talk to you, I'll just sit down and pray
One day we'll be together again
To talk about all the places we been
Until the time I'll always treasure
Having you for a Dad was such a great pleasure*

DAD

*We'll always remember
that special smile,
that caring heart,
that warm embrace,
you always gave us.
You being there
for Mum and us
through good and bad times,
no matter what.
We'll always remember
you Dad because
they'll never be another one
to replace you in our hearts,
and the love we will always
have for you.*

*A gift for such a little while,
your loss just seems so wrong,
you should not have left before us,
it's with loved ones you belong.*

The Magic of a Mother's Touch

*There's magic in a Mother's touch,
and sunshine in her smile.
There's love in everything she does
to make our lives worthwhile.
We can find both hope and courage
Just by looking in her eyes.
Her laughter is a source of joy,
her works are warm and wise.
There is a kindness and compassion
to be found in her embrace,
and we see the light of heaven
shining from a Mother's face.*

What is a Mum?

*A mum is one of life's best gifts,
Someone to treasure all life through,
She's caring and loving,
Thoughtful and true,
Someone who is always a special part of your life,
Someone who holds a prime place in your heart,
She's a mentor, a confident and also a friend,
Someone on whose love you can depend.
A mom always has your best interests at heart,
She's someone so dear and so good,
She's a blessing, she's a gift,
She's a treasure like no other,
She's someone that is truly wonderful.
Wherever you go, and whatever you do,
A mum's love will always see you through,
A mum is truly invaluable,
Indispensable and unforgettable.
I wouldn't want anyone but you,
And that's why I'm so grateful,
that life picked you for me.*

The Watcher

*She always leaned to watch for us
Anxious if we were late,
In winter by the window,
In summer by the gate.*

*And though we mocked her tenderly
Who had such foolish care,
The long way home would seem more safe,
Because she waited there.*

*Her thoughts were all so full of us,
She never could forget,
And so I think that where she is
She must be watching yet.*

*Waiting 'til we come home to her
Anxious if we are late
Watching from Heaven's window
Leaning from Heaven's gate.*

As We Look Back

*As we look back over time
We find ourselves wondering
Did we remember to thank you enough
For all you have done for us?
For all the times you were by our sides
To help and support us
To celebrate our successes
To understand our problems
And accept our defeats?
Or for teaching us by your example,
The value of hard work, good judgement,
Courage and integrity?
We wonder if we ever thanked you
For the sacrifices you made.
To let us have the very best?
And for the simple things
Like laughter, smiles and times we shared?
If we have forgotten to show our
Gratitude enough for all the things you did,
We're thanking you now.
And we are hoping you knew all along,
How much you meant to us.*

After Glow

*I'd like the memory of me
to be a happy one.
I'd like to leave an after glow
of smiles when life is done,
I'd like to leave an echo
whispering softly down the ways,
Of happy times and laughing
times and bright and
summer days.
I'd like the tears of those who
grieve, to dry before the sun,
Of happy memories that I leave
When life is done.*

.....Who She Was

*The memories of the past are vague
The hurts are forever and forgiven
What I have today is what there is forever
And those are the memories of all I have to hold on to.*

*In my mind I remember a face-one of beauty
One with rarely a frown
And almost always a smile*

*Never a harsh word-just a kind gentle smile
I hear her voice as she says kind words to all who she
knew
The words were always soft
And they were who she was
I will forever hear her say "Hi Honey" soft and gentle
was her voice*

*In the air I breathe
I know she is there
To guide and protect all who she loved
I will forever be grateful
I was born through her to love
I am now who she was*

*Let us be grateful to people who
make us happy;
they are the charming gardeners
who make our souls blossom.*

Grandmother

*We had a wonderful grandmother,
One who never really grew old;
Her smile was made of sunshine,
And her heart was solid gold;
Her eyes were as bright as shining stars,
And in her cheeks fair roses you see.
We had a wonderful grandmother,
And that's the way it will always be.
But take heed, because
She's still keeping an eye on all of us,
So let's make sure
She will like what she sees.*

*You can only have one mother
Patient kind and true;
No other friend in all the world,
Will be the same to you.
When other friends forsake you,
To mother you will return,
For all her loving kindness,
She asks nothing in return.
As we look upon her picture,
Sweet memories we recall,
Of a face so full of sunshine,
And a smile for one and all.
Sweet Jesus, take this message,
To our dear mother up above;
Tell her how we miss her,
And give her all our love*

When I Must Leave You

*When I must leave you
For a little while-
Please do not grieve
And shed wild tears
And hug your sorrow to you
Through the years,*

*But start out bravely
With a gallant smile;
And for my sake
And for my name
Live on and do
All things the same,*

*Feed not your loneliness
On empty days,
But fill each waking hour
In useful ways,*

*Reach out your hand
In comfort and in cheer
And I in turn will comfort you
And hold you near;*

*And never, never
Be afraid to die
For I am waiting for you in the sky!*

*No farewell words were spoken,
no time to say goodbye, you were
gone before we knew it, and only
God knows why.*

Legacy of Love

*A wife, a mother, a grandma too,
This is the legacy we have from you.
You taught us love and how to fight,
You gave us strength, you gave us might.
A stronger person would be hard to find,
And in your heart, you were always kind.
You fought for us all in one way or another,
Not just as a wife not just as a mother.
For all of us you gave your best,
Now the time has come for you to rest.
So go in peace, you've earned your sleep,
Your love in our hearts, we'll eternally keep*

*Gone yet not forgotten,
although we are apart,
your spirit lives within me,
forever in my heart.*

*"If ever there is tomorrow when we're
not together.. there is something you
must always remember. You are
braver than you believe, stronger
than you seem, and smarter than
you think. but the most important
thing is, even if we're apart.. I'll
always be with you."*

Winnie the Pooh (A.A. Milne)

Angel Poem- We are Not Alone

*We are touched by Angels
walk where angels tread.
They will guard and guide us
through the days ahead.
In times of sorrow,
as in the days of joy,
they bring us hope and comfort
nothing can destroy.
In the hours of darkness,
when our dreams have flown
they bring us peace and healing.
We are not alone
through times of doubting,
still they understand.
We are touched by angels,
walking hand in hand.*

*I thought of you with love today but that is nothing new
I thought about you yesterday and days before that too,
I think of you in silence I often speak your name
All I have are memories and your picture in a frame
Your memory is my keepsake with which I'll never part
God has you in His keeping I have you in my heart.*

*Do not stand at my grave and weep;
I am not there, I do not sleep.
I am a thousand winds that blow.
I am the diamond glints on snow.
I am the sunlight on ripened grain.
I am the gentle autumn rain.*

*When you awaken in the morning's hush
I am the swift uplifting rush
Of quiet birds in circled flight.
I am the soft stars that shine at night.
Do not stand at my grave and cry;
I am not there, I did not die.
Mary Frye*

To My Best Friend

I kept my promise, to love, honour, and share. I kept my promise that to you that I would always be there Until death do we part, that is what they say wasn't ready for you to say goodbye, as I look into the heavens with tears in my eyes, I wasn't ready for you to die. My best friend why did you leave and not say goodbye? With so many questions and no answers as to why. I would have gone with you, however God knows best and took you home to give you rest. I was not ready, no not just yet, With only one regret that I didn't tell you one last time I love you, and forever you will be mine. My best friend this you must know, and never forget. I will see you again when God calls my name and say's it is time to go home and be with your best friend once again.

By Diana Johnson

Footprints in the Sand

*Lord, You said that once I decided to follow you,
we would walk side by side through life.
But when I needed you most, I say only one set
of footprints in the sand. The Lord replied, "I love you
and I would never leave you. During your times of trial
and suffering, when you see only one set of footprints,
it was then that I carried you."*

Death is Nothing

*Death is nothing at all
I have only slipped away into the next room
I am I and you are you.
Whatever we were to each other
That we still are.*

*Call me by my old familiar name
Speak to me in the easy way which you always used
Wear no forced air of solemnity or sorrow.
Laugh as we always laughed at the little jokes
We enjoyed together.*

*Play, smile, think of me, pray for me,
Let my name be ever the household word that
It always was.*

*Let it be spoken without effort,
Without the trace of a shadow on it.
Life means all that it ever meant
It is the same as it ever was
There is absolutely unbroken continuity.*

*Why should I be out of mind because I am
Out of sight? I am but waiting for you
For an interval
Somewhere very near
Just around the corner .
All is well.*

Canon Henry Scott Holland (1847-1918)