



DIOCESE OF SODOR AND MAN

**DELEGATED AUTHORITY FOR MEMORIALS IN  
PARISH BURIAL GROUNDS**

I hereby authorise the incumbent of any ecclesiastical parish to grant written permission for the erection of any memorial or monument in a parish burial ground in the parish subject to and in conformity with the following conditions.

**1. General**

(a) In this authority —

"incumbent", in relation to an ecclesiastical parish, means —

- (a) if the cure of souls in the parish is assigned to a vicar in a team ministry, that vicar; or
- (b) if the benefice the area of which comprises or includes the parish is vacant, the priest in charge of the benefice or, if there is no priest in charge, the Archdeacon;

"parish burial ground" has the same meaning as in the Burials Act 1986;  
measurements in imperial units are indicative only.

- (b) An incumbent has no authority to permit the erection, alteration or marking of a memorial which does not comply exactly with these provisions, and may not —
  - (i) give permission for any kerbs, fences, railings, chains, statues, urns, plain or coloured chippings, glass shades, lighting or other matters not hereby authorised, or
  - (ii) make any exception to these provisions.

**2. Headstones**

A headstone must comply with the following specification:

(a) Size

	<i>Maximum</i>	<i>Minimum</i>	
		<i>Normal</i>	<i>Infant burial</i>
Height (measured from ground level)	1200mm (4ft)	750mm (30in)	600mm (2ft)
Width	900mm (3ft)	500mm (20in)	375mm (15in)
Thickness	150mm (6in)	65mm (2½in) (50mm (2in) if slate only is used)	50mm (2in)

(b) Material

Natural stone must be used and must be similar in texture and colour to that used in local buildings or be in keeping with other lawfully erected memorials in the burial ground or the particular area of the burial ground.

The following are not permitted:

- (i) highly polished or reflective finishes;
- (ii) synthetic stone;
- (iii) plastic.

(c) Design and style

A headstone must be simple in shape and may have a straight or curved top, but may not be in eccentric form (e.g. heart, teddy bear, book).

**3. Bases**

(a) A base forming an integral part of the design of the headstone may be included provided that —

- (i) it does not project more than 113mm (4½in) beyond the headstone in any direction, and
- (ii) it is fixed on a foundation slab of an approved material which itself is fixed at least 50mm (2ins) below or level with the surrounding ground and extending no more than 100 mm (4in) all round so that a mower may freely pass over it.

(b) If desired, the base may include the provision of one socket to receive a flower vase, in which case it may extend by up to 225mm (9in) forward of the headstone.

(c) Any material used to support the headstone or base shall be completely sunken into the ground and not visible.

**4. Horizontal stones and ledgers**

A horizontal stone or ledger is permitted, but must comply with the following specification:

- (a) Size (including the base):

maximum length	2100mm (7ft)
maximum width	900mm (3ft)
- (b) Construction: must be flush with the surrounding ground so that a mower may pass freely over it.
- (c) Material: as for headstones (above)

**5. Crosses**

A cross must comply with the following specification:

(a)	Size	<i>Maximum</i>	<i>Minimum</i>
	Height (measured from ground level and including any steps or a boulder at the base)	1500mm (5ft)	—
	Thickness of shaft and arms	150mm (6in)	65mm (2½in)
	If mounted on step(s) or boulder, size of step, lower step or boulder:		
	width	900mm (3ft)	600mm (2ft)
	front to back	375mm (15in)	300mm (1ft)

(b) Design

A cross may be in Passion (Latin), Celtic, Maltese or St Chad's style.

No cross may stand on more than two steps. A cross may be mounted on a boulder instead of steps

**5. Inscriptions on memorials**

(a) General

Inscriptions should be simple, reverent and theologically acceptable. Three principles are to be observed: epitaphs should honour the dead, comfort the living and inform posterity.

Inscriptions must be in the English language and in the Roman alphabet.

(b) Quotations

Biblical or other quotations may be used but must be entirely compatible with the Christian faith.

(c) Names etc.

The Christian name and surname of the deceased should be given, with dates of birth and death.

Relationships must be correctly stated and should normally be restricted to parents, children, spouse and partner.

Whilst a full form of address is to be encouraged (e.g. Mother), diminutives in common or local usage (e.g. Mum) may be permitted if uncontroversial.

Nicknames are not permitted, but a common diminutive form (e.g. Tom for Thomas) may be permitted if the incumbent is satisfied that the diminutive form is inoffensive and was in general use in addressing the deceased.

(d) Lettering

Incised or relief letter-cutting is permitted, and may be painted in gold, black or white but not in colours. Lead lettering may be inserted, but plastic or other applied relief lettering is not permitted.

(e) Pictures etc.

Only the following pictures or motifs, if incised or painted in gold, black or white, may be permitted:

- (i) representations of objects or motifs appropriate to the life of the deceased;
- (ii) accepted Christian symbols;

If a badge or insignia of the Armed Forces of the Crown is to be used, the incumbent must be provided with a letter of authority from the branch of the Forces in question.

Any picture or motif must be carved or etched into the stone, and be no larger than 203mm (8in) high and 102mm (4in) wide.

The following must not be permitted:

- (i) photographs, porcelain or plastic images of the deceased;
- (ii) metal or ceramic inserts.

(f) Commercial marks

No advertisement or trademark may be inscribed on any memorial, but the name of the monumental mason may be inscribed low down on the side or the reverse of the memorial in unpainted and unleaded letters not more than 13mm (½in) in height.

## **6. Applications**

Permission for the erection, alteration or inscription of a memorial may not be given except on an application in writing, signed both by the executor or next-of-kin of the deceased and by the monumental mason.

The application may be made in the annexed form, but must in any event include all the information specified in the form.

Dated 1st February 2012

*Clare Faulds V.G.*

APPLICATION FOR PERMISSION TO ERECT MEMORIAL

To the incumbent of the parish of

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We the undersigned request permission to erect a memorial as described below

Name of burial ground

--

Grave no.

--

Full name of deceased

--

Date of death

--

Description of proposed memorial (if possible, attach a photograph, CAD image or drawing)

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Material

--

Colour

--

Dimensions

<i>Height</i>		<i>Width</i>		<i>Thickness</i>	
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Proposed inscription

--

Method of inscription

--

Signature of executor or next-of-kin

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Name and address of executor or next-of-kin

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Signature of monumental mason

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Name and address of monumental mason

--

Date

--

This form may be used, with any necessary modifications, for permission to make an additional inscription or other alteration to an existing memorial