

North Luffenham Graveyard

– Notice to all visitors re Enforcement of Regulations 1st October 2016

Recently the Rural Dean for Rutland visited our church on behalf of the Archdeacon who is ultimately responsible for the church upkeep whilst we have no Rector in place.

He inspected our graveyard and brought to our attention that it is not being kept in accordance with churchyard regulations. Full details of these regulations may be found in the north porch at the main entrance to the church. He has requested that we enforce these rules for safety and ease of maintenance, to keep our graveyard harmonious in appearance and a worthy setting for our village church.

To clarify -

- Containers of fresh flowers and plants **may only** be placed on the gravestone plinth.
- Where there is no plinth, containers of fresh flowers may be placed in a removable container that has been recessed completely in the ground.
- Wreaths and bouquets of cut flowers may be laid on the grave grass but must be removed when withered.
- No plants, rose trees, bushes etc. may be planted to mark an interment without the express permission from the Chancellor of Peterborough Diocese.
- Small flower bulbs may be planted in the soil of a grave.
- It has been agreed, as a relaxing of the rules, that tasteful silk **naturalistic** artificial flowers may be allowed in the same way as real flowers but must be taken away when they become too weathered.
- ***Raised curbs, railings, fencing around a grave, chippings, photographs, lights, statues and ornaments are not allowed in and on the graves. Any such ornaments must be removed within one month of this notice.*** After this time, all the unapproved items will be removed from the graves to a box in the church main entrance north porch where they may be taken away by the donators– they will be disposed of after two months.

Information –

- The whole graveyard belongs to the church, not the deceased's families and therefore all memorials and headstones are pre-approved so that everything appears reverent and simple, in keeping with a country churchyard. In future any other items which are inappropriate and added without permission will be removed immediately.
- During the growing season, grass cutting (it is the church's most expensive annual maintenance bill) is carried out by contractors and the regulations need to be observed so that we can more easily keep the graveyard safe, neat and tidy.
- A tap for graveyard users is situated below the retaining wall to the left hand side of the church entrance path.
- Please remove all withered flowers and place them in the either of the two green wheelie bins but put paper in the grey recycling bin and all the rest of the rubbish in the black bin which are to be found to the left of the main church entrance.

St John the Baptist's churchyard is special because it has been set aside as a Christian place of burial.

It is a sacred place of peace and tranquillity where precious memories can be cherished

– please help us to keep it so for the future