

Advice concerning Additional Inscriptions on Memorial stones

From time to time advice is sought about adding an inscription to an existing memorial stone. This request often occurs after an interment of ashes. These guidelines are written to address the issue in the light of such a request.

Modern Memorial Stones.

Additional inscriptions may be added to modern memorial stones. The usual guidelines must be followed. Copies of the Chancellor's regulations are widely available, but if there is any doubt about these please seek further advice from either the Rural Dean, Jane Logan at the Diocesan Office or the relevant archdeacon.

“Older” Memorial Stones.

There are times when a request for a new inscription on an old stone is made. For example when an interment of ashes takes place in a family grave. The DAC recommends that a small stone with a suitable inscription is placed on such a family grave. This indicates that a new burial has occurred. We do not recommend additional inscriptions to old memorials, nor do we commend the practice of “cleaning” ancient traditional stones. We do not recommend that old stones are re-cut.

We have deliberately chosen not to define the terms “modern” or “older” memorial stones. We hope that an incumbent will exercise his/her own discretion in these matters.

The incumbent must at all times follow the Chancellor's Churchyard Regulations when approving an additional inscription.

Nothing we have said here is to be interpreted as being a way of circumventing or altering the Chancellor's Churchyard Regulations.