

Memorial Masons' Registration Scheme

This Council operates a Registration scheme for Memorial Masons, whereby the Council only allows approved Memorial Masons to work within our cemeteries. A list of approved Memorial Masons is available by contacting Bereavement Services.

Restricted Grave Access

Please note that a later date we may need to excavate the grave at the side or foot of the grave that you have purchased. We may have to place boards over the grave and perhaps a spoil box and this may prevent you visiting the grave for a short period. Please be assured that we only do this where necessary.

Winter Conditions

In winter every year, glass vases on graves freeze and split and the shards become a safety hazard. Please do not use glass on graves. Please exercise extreme care in winter as we do not treat frozen surfaces. Only roads and paths to imminent funerals are salted and/or gritted and the majority of paths, roads and parking places can be covered with ice and/or snow.

Opening Times

The cemeteries are open to the public all year round. Please check the notice boards as the closing times vary throughout the year or visit the Councils website www.cannockchasedc.gov.uk

Bereavement Services can be contacted on **01543 462621**.

Bereavement Services

Your Rights and Responsibilities

This leaflet offers information following the purchase of a grave / cremated remains plot in one of Cannock Chase Councils cemeteries. It explains:

- The Exclusive Right of Burial.
- Form of Assignment.
- Memorials.
- Memorial Masons Registration Scheme.
- Restricted Grave Access
- Winter Conditions
- Opening Times.

The Exclusive Right of Burial

The Exclusive Right of Burial you have purchased from Cannock Chase Council entitles the person named on the deed the legal entitlement to reopen the grave for a further interment or the right to erect a memorial on the grave numbered on the deed. Please note that the amount paid is for the exclusive right of burial only and does not include the interment fee. It is important to note that you have brought a "right" and not the land which remains in the ownership of Cannock Chase Council. The Exclusive Right of Burial last for 30 years. At the end of the 30 years, Cannock Chase Council will write to you to offer you the right to extend your Exclusive Right of Burial for a further 30 years. There is currently no charge for this service. It is therefore extremely important for you to inform Bereavement Services of any change of address so that we have an up to date contact address. Should you decide not to extend your exclusive right of burial the ownership of the grave and memorial would become the responsibility of Cannock Chase Council.

Form of Assignment

This form allows you to assign the Exclusive Right of Burial to another person. The other person must sign the form along with yourself and be aware that they are taking on the responsibility for the grave and any memorial placed on the grave. Cemetery records held by Cannock Chase Council will be amended to include their name as the Exclusive Right of Burial holder. The original deed (Exclusive Right of Burial) must be returned with the completed Form of Assignment. An administration fee is charged for this service.

Memorials

Memorials are not permitted on public graves, but may be erected on private graves subject to the permission of the Bereavement Services Manager. Notice must be given to the Bereavement Services Manager before removing a memorial or carrying out any work in connection with the memorial. Vertical memorials and cremated remains plaques may only be erected on graves on payment of a permit fee submitted by an approved Memorial Mason who is a member of the Memorial Masons Registration Scheme. No grave mound, kerbing or other surround will be permitted in any section of the cemetery declared to be a Lawn Section. Wooden crosses are not permitted. The Council may remove memorials from private graves when the 30 years has expired. We strongly advise that you take out insurance on your memorial. Your Memorial Mason will be able to provide you with details. The Council does not accept any responsibility for any items on grave spaces, therefore you are advised that you do so at your own risk. This Council operates a memorial testing programme whereby memorials are tested to ensure that they meet current guide lines.