

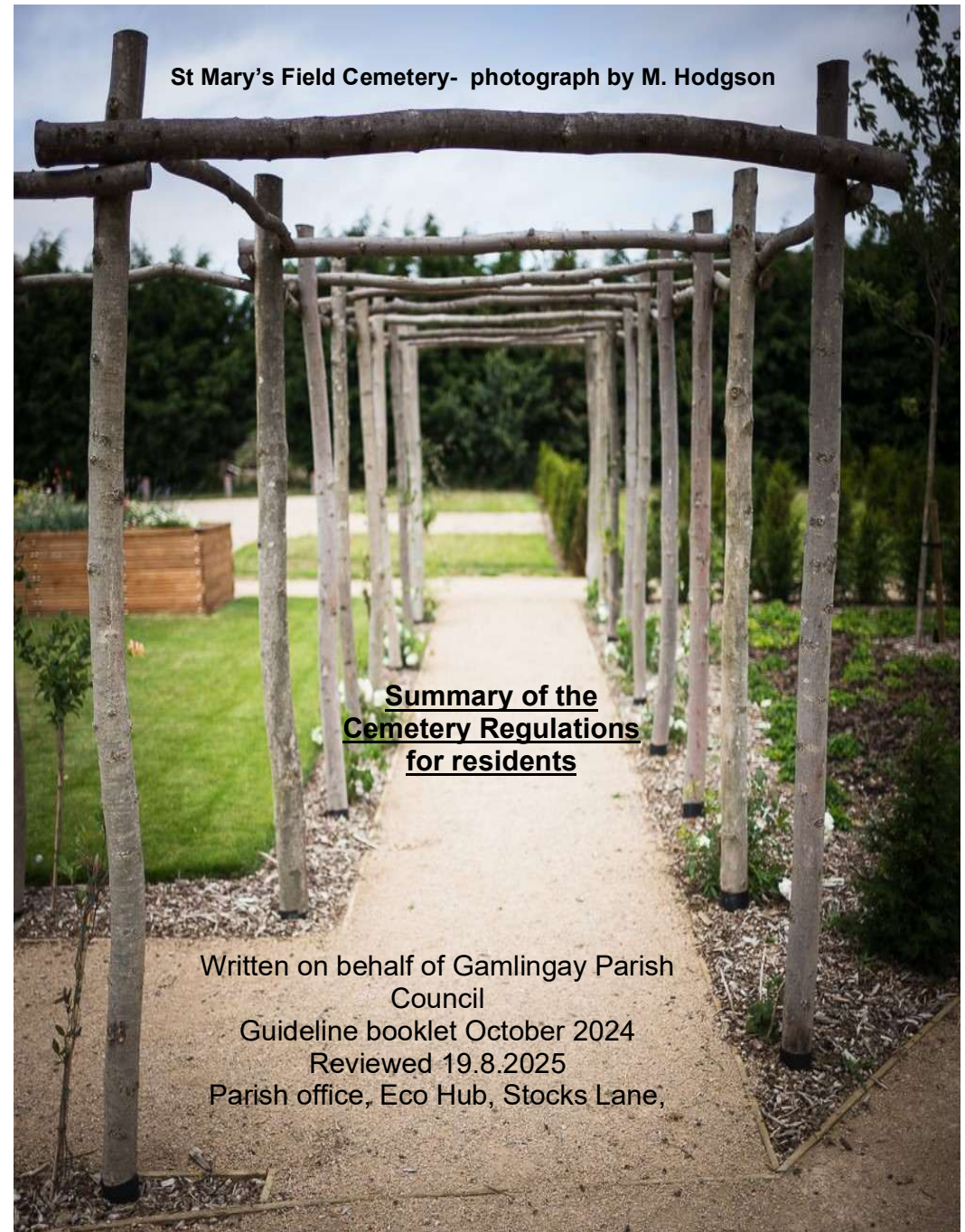
St Mary's Field Cemetery

Design Guidance for residents and customers

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Parish
Council

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St Mary's Field Cemetery- photograph by M. Hodgson

Summary of the Cemetery Regulations for residents

Written on behalf of Gamlingay Parish
Council

Guideline booklet October 2024

Reviewed 19.8.2025

Parish office, Eco Hub, Stocks Lane,

Table of Contents

Introduction and main principles	3
Facilities	4
Choosing your plot	4
The Cremated Remains Section	5
The Lawn Section (main burials)	6
The Enclosed Section	7
The Children's Section	7
The Woodland Section	7
More Information	8
Contact details	8

The Enclosed Section

If you require a memorial which exceeds the prescribed size and type allowed in the lawn section, and/ or require kerbing, statues or alternative memorial design, then you are able to purchase a plot in the enclosed section and apply for the right for a more elaborate memorial. These enclosures are partially shielded away from the main lawn sections and give an option for a memorial less restricted by the regulations as they are less visible. Each enclosure has two burial plots side by side. Each plot can have up to two coffin burials (one on top of the other) and 3 cremated remains urn interments. Alternatively, each plot could take up to 6 cremated remains urn interments only or ashes can be scattered (under the turf). Please contact the clerk to discuss your needs.

No memorial will be permitted without written permission and the appropriate fee being paid. Right of memorial costs in this section are likely to range between £100-£500.

The alternative is to purchase a plot in the existing Stocks Lane cemetery.

Children's Section. Regulations as per lawn section

However, some plots do not have underground stretcher-contact clerks for details.

Woodland Section

There will be no permanent memorials in this section, as a natural alternative. Cremated remains will be marked using GPS reference only. Please contact the clerks if you would like to consider this option. Burials can be marked temporarily with a wooden marker. Further details are to follow.

All sections- An up to date list of cemetery charges are available from the Clerks or on the website. Please be aware that fees generally increase on 1st April every year.

There is also an administration charge for additional inscriptions after the first.

The Lawn Sections

The plots in this section must adhere to strict guidelines with regard to memorial design and location of headstones. A Shoe system is being used, which means that memorials are fixed to an underground concrete stretcher, and therefore do not need any support at the base. The stretcher position means that in row 2 and 4 the memorial will be located at the foot of the grave. This ensures clean lines and ability for larger mechanized mowing equipment to access all lawn areas for maintenance purposes. No loose stones are permitted.

Memorial requirements are:

- 1) Must be a maximum of 3ft(91cm) above the ground level(extra length will be required underground to fix to shoe system-to be purchased by applicant and supplied by memorial mason)
- 2) Width of burial memorials to be no wider than 2ft (61cm)
- 3) The cost of the shoe system is to be met by the owner/applicant.
- 4) Any shape is permissible(gothic, informal curve, ogee, camber, rectangle, oval or heart shape) However NO slanting book memorials will be permitted (Perpendicular book style set at right angle fixed underground shoe system will be allowed subject to height and width restrictions above).
- 5) Memorials can be granite or marble material. All memorials can be polished with the following exception-black granite/marble is to be restricted and only polished surface allowed is the inscription face only.
- 6) No restrictions on colour of inscription text. Wording must be approved by parish Clerks prior to installation.
- 7) PLINTHS AND KERBS WILL NOT BE PERMITTED IN ANY CIRCUMSTANCE.
- 8) Cameo pictures, photographs and statues will not be permitted.
- 9) Vases will be restricted to the underground system*
- 10) All memorials must comply with BS58415 and memorial masons must be NAMM/BRAMM registered fitters.

Introduction and main principles

Introduction

This new cemetery has been opened to serve the residents of Gamlingay for the next 100 years, as the current Stocks Lane Cemetery is nearing capacity. Stocks Lane site offers a more traditional Victorian style approach to burial matters. The new cemetery is a design based on military cemetery principles, which means that the memorials allowed within it are restricted to ensure the open aspect is maintained in the long term, and it is easier to maintain. It has manual water pump, noticeboard and a small car park.

Main Principles

The cemetery is divided up into separate sections. The largest of these are the **lawn sections** which are designed to cater for formal burials. The design and layout of memorials in these sections are strictly limited to ensure that they do not detract from the openness of the site, which is to retain its field like quality, with open views of the landscape.

The **cremated remains** section is an oval shaped area at the top end of the site adjacent to the access way. Other sections include the **children's** section, the **woodland** sections and the **enclosed section**. The enclosed section provides for residents who want a plot for burial but require more memorial features than the lawn section is able to permit. These plots can allow for more elaborate memorials subject to receiving written approval from the Parish Council (subject to an additional fee). Please contact the clerks for more information.

Facilities

The cemetery has a small car park for use by residents who wish to visit the cemetery, and for occasional use by churchgoers or users of St Mary's Church Hall. There is a wooden noticeboard in the car park which will provide general information on the cemetery. There is also a manual water pump which provides NON POTABLE water strictly limited for the use of watering plants and flowers in the cemetery. The water is sourced from a borehole underground water supply approx. 5.2 metres below ground level. **DO NOT DRINK THIS WATER-it is not safe for human consumption.**

There are a series of hard paths and grass paths through the site. If you are walking your dog you are able to use the 'Green Lane' which runs adjacent to the southern field boundary edge adjacent to the rear of St Mary's properties and the Manor House. Dogs must be kept on leads inside the cemetery perimeter hedge. Please clean up after your dog.

The first phase of the cemetery is now open. Phase 2 will be mown occasionally and left as a wildflower meadow for much of the year. There is a further borehole in the area adjacent to the copse, just inside the walkway fencing to the bottom of the site. This is capped and will be used to monitor water quality when required.

Choosing your plot

Please consider very carefully which plot best suits your needs before acquiring your plot. Once you have purchased your plot you as owners (or your descendants) will be bound by the Cemetery Regulations restrictions placed on each section of the cemetery in perpetuity. You still have an option of acquiring a plot in the Stocks Lane cemetery if this meets your needs better. If you would like to purchase a plot please contact the Parish Clerks, who will be able to advise you of the costs. **You also need to purchase a basic Right of Memorial** when purchasing your plot. The clerk will allocate you the next plot available either in the reserved section or the immediate use section, depending on your requirements.

The Cremated Remains Section

This section has been laid out in rows extending at 90 degrees from a centralized grass path. The plots on the right hand side are for reservations, and on the left hand side for immediate use. You must purchase a plot and the standard Right of Memorial from the parish Clerks. The memorials must comply with the following requirements:-

- 1) All memorials must be fixed to a standard concrete paving slab 60*60cm square, which must be laid flush with the level of the ground.
- 2) The memorial must be constructed of granite or marble and be either level or wedge shaped. The memorial must be no higher than 10cm narrowing to 2cm above ground level. The base of the memorial must be a maximum of 50cm*50cm square
- 3) All memorials are to face west (towards the church)
- 4) All memorials must be a natural stone colour (muted colours are preferred). All colours will be acceptable, however black granite will only be polished on the inscription face of the memorial. In the case of black granite/marble, all other faces must remain unpolished.
- 5) Strictly no glass chips or loose stones will be permitted in the Cremated Remains section
- 6) Vases are only permitted if the memorial is designed with an integral vase, unless an underground vase system is purchased *.
- 7) All plot holders must have purchased a Right of Memorial and had the wording of the memorial approved by the Parish Clerk before the memorial is erected.
- 8) All memorials must comply with BS58415 and be fitted by registered NAMM or BRAMM fitter.

The surrounds of each plot will remain as mown grass –the maintenance of which will fall to the Parish Council. Gravel will not be used as it can damage memorials when area is cut by mechanized equipment. The memorials will lie with the gradient of the natural slope and therefore will sit at a slight angle (natural lie of the land).