

RESERVATION OF GRAVE SPACES

It is possible for a grave space to be legally reserved by authority of a faculty, the jurisdiction to do so resting wholly in the judicial discretion of the Consistory Court. A petition for faculty must be lodged by sending it to the **Diocesan Registrar, Diocesan Registry, Minster Chambers, 42/44 Castle Street, Salisbury, Wilts SP1 3TX.**

The following documents must accompany a petition:

1. A plan of the churchyard (or a portion of it) showing the exact position of the space to be appropriated and giving measurements and distances from the boundaries of the churchyard or some permanent conspicuous point, and ideally the row and grave number. The plan need not be elaborate but it must be sufficient to enable the plot to be identified at the time the petition is lodged and in the future.
2. The written consent of the PCC in the form of a PCC resolution agreeing to the proposed reservation should be obtained by speaking with the vicar or churchwardens (or Rural Dean if no incumbent). The resolution should be signed by the Chairman or Secretary, supporting the petitioner's request, naming the applicant and identifying the grave space.
3. Any other document or statement which the petitioner may consider to be relevant to his/her request and may assist the Court.
4. A cheque for the faculty fee which changes each year. Please therefore contact the Registry for details.

A petition document can be obtained from the Diocesan Registry (contact details below).

The following details must be included in a petition:

1. Full name (including all forenames), address **and age** of each petitioner and if more than one petitioner, their relationship, e.g. husband and wife.
2. Normally each person desiring to be buried in the plot asked for should be a petitioner. However, if that is not possible for some special reason, then his written consent to the petition or copy of any Power of Attorney, if applicable, should be attached to the petition.
3. The area of space to be reserved. (For guidance, an average grave space is 7 ft x 4 ft, making 28 sq ft or roughly 2m x 1m.) For a space for cremated remains, the average might be 2 ft x 2ft, making 4 sq ft or roughly 1m x 1m.
4. Whether the space to be reserved is to be used for a single-depth grave or a double-depth grave for full burial, or for the burial of cremated remains. (In order to maximise use of space in a churchyard, it is usual for double spaces to be double-depth rather than side by side.) It is acceptable to amend the petition to take into account reservation of a space for cremated remains rather than full burial plot.
5. The amount of money the petitioner undertakes to pay to the Parochial Church Council towards the upkeep and maintenance of the churchyard. This is usually a one-off payment of £80, not an annual payment, which becomes payable only when a faculty is issued

A faculty is limited to the number of years decided by the Court partly out of consideration of the age of each applicant. (Under Section 8 of the Faculty Jurisdiction Measure 1964 no such faculty can exceed the maximum term of 100 years.)

If you have any questions, please telephone Sarah Hart or Dee Elston on 01722 432390.