

FIRST AND SECOND MARKETHILL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

GRAVEYARD RULES POLICY DOCUMENT

1. These rules apply to the graveyards of 1st & 2nd Markethill Presbyterian Church
2. Registers of all burials will be kept by the Congregational Secretary.
3. No headstone, monument, surround etc will be erected or removed from its setting in either graveyard nor inscription put on it or removed from it without the prior consent of the 1st & 2nd Markethill Presbyterian Church (hereafter The Church) Congregational Committee. Plans or designs of memorials and inscriptions must have prior approval of the registered holder of burial rights, must be submitted for approval and must be in keeping with the ethos of the Church. Memorials or mementoes that do not have approval the Church Committee are not permitted.
4. All floral wreathes etc to be removed by 6 weeks after burial. Artificial floral arrangements to be removed when their appearance has been degraded, containerised plants only allowed.
5. The Church Committee retains the right to remove and dispose of any unpermitted items left on plots.
6. All rubbish to be placed in one of the appropriate bins provided. Surplus soil from grave digging or installation of surrounds to be removed from the graveyard as soon as possible. All plots to be kept neat and tidy.
7. All burial services within Church property to be conducted by the Church Minister, Minister's nominee or, in special circumstances, nominee of Kirk Session.
8. The graveyards are the property of 1st & 2nd Markethill Presbyterian Church Trustees. A grave is for use as a burial location only. Allocation of a burial plot does not convey ownership of the land.
9. Remapping of the graveyards will occur periodically and application/reapplication for all graves will be required at that time in order to ensure retention. Existing registered holders will have first right to renew.
10. Those eligible for acquiring burial rights at the Church graveyards should be Communicant Members who are contributors through WFO; together with Adherent Members who are on the congregation list and contribute to the work and witness of the Church. *Burial rights may in exceptional circumstances be granted to former Members.*
11. Family plots can be claimed and registered within a family on production of written agreement from all family members.
12. Only one person can be the registered holder of a burial plot. On death of the registered holder, rights shall firstly transfer to any surviving spouse, then to an agreed immediate family member.
13. Transfers from registered holders can be made to an immediate family member with approval of the Church Committee. An immediate family member is defined as husband, wife, mother, father, son, daughter, brother, sister.

14. The Church Trustees or Committee will not be held responsible for any damage to grave plots, headstones, surrounds, etc.
15. All matters of Graveyard Policy will be decided by the Church Committee and their decision(s) will be final and binding.
16. Costs as at start of 2023 will be
 - Members/Adherents meeting the requirements of (10) above acquiring a burial plot - £50 per grave plus £50 for each additional grave.
 - Ex members granted burial right in exceptional circumstances - £350 per grave plus £350 for each additional grave
 - For members there will be a fee of £100 for each use of a burial or cremation plot
 - For ex-members who have been granted burial rights in exceptional circumstances there will be a fee of £500 for each use of a burial or cremation plot
17. Contractors or other persons erecting a headstone or surround or making alterations to grave plots must contact Graveyard Committee prior to commencement of the work. All surplus materials must be removed from the graveyard and the contractors will be held responsible for any damage caused.
18. These rules, policy procedures and charges will be reviewed and updated as required with next scheduled review before end of 2030.

Date of this revision 23rd March 2023