

Application for an Interment of Cremated Remains

Surname of deceased: _____

Christian names of deceased: _____

Home address of deceased: _____

Date of birth: _____ Date of death: _____

Single or double plot: _____ Date of burial: _____

Do you wish to have a commemorative plaque? _____

Name of applicant: _____

Relationship of applicant to the deceased: _____

Home address of applicant: _____

Phone number of applicant: _____

I agree not to plant bulbs or to place any pot or marker on or near to the grave of the deceased person. I understand that any such pot or vase or marker placed there will be removed.

Signature: _____ Date: _____



**St Margaret's Church
Downham**

The Easter Garden

Area for the Interment of Cremated Remains



*Early on Sunday morning, while it was still dark,
Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone
had been taken away from the entrance.*

Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

About the Easter Garden

The new Easter Garden at Downham is sited in the north-east corner of this lovely Essex churchyard. It was created in the Autumn of 2007, and officially opened at Easter, 2008.

This garden has been designed to reflect the Christian message of hope, hope in a life that is to come, hope inspired by the life and death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The Easter Garden faces east towards the rising sun, and looks out over open fields and a lovely, unspoiled corner of the Essex countryside.

The path from the entrance of the garden to the central focus area maps out the shape of a cross. The view of this looking from the sky would reveal an empty cross backed by the midday sun.

This cross reminds us of where we find forgiveness, and the promise of new life. In Luke 23:43, Jesus tells the penitent sinner, "I promise you that today you will be in Paradise with me."

The stones used to create the cross are all the same as, or similar to, the types of stone used in the build of Saint Margaret's Church.

The raised circular stone in the centre of the garden is hard to miss, and is the main feature of the Easter garden. The stone represents the stone rolled away from the entrance to the garden tomb.

When Jesus' body was laid to rest in the garden tomb, a huge stone was used to seal his tomb. But, when Mary Magdalene went to the tomb on Easter morning, she found that the stone had been taken away from the entrance. Jesus had been raised from the dead.

In Matthew's gospel we read that, despite all the efforts made to secure the garden tomb, an angel of the Lord came down from heaven, rolled the stone away, and sat on it.

Jesus' body was laid to rest in a beautiful garden tomb, but that was not the end of the story. On Easter morning, he was raised to life.

Christians believe that all who belong to him will also be raised to life and go to be with him in heaven.

Who is entitled to be buried there?

There is a legal right for anyone:

- who, at the time of death, resided in either of the parishes of Downham or Ramsden Heath
- or who died in the parish, or
- whose name was at their date of death on the Church Electoral Roll ...

... to be buried, or have his/her cremated remains buried/interred in the churchyard, provided that the churchyard has space available.

Permission **may be given by the incumbent** for the burial/interment of a non-parishioner, e.g., if the deceased had lived in the parish for many years and had only moved away for reasons of age or health.

Commemorating a loved one

A plaque with the name of the deceased person may be applied for, and these will be mounted professionally on the oak rails. The plaques will not denote where the deceased person's cremated remains are buried.

The plaques will simply contain the name of the deceased, and the year of birth and death. Examples of these brass plaques can be seen on the octagonal memorial by the old area for the burial of ashes.

The plaques will be supplied and fitted by S. Carter & Son, Funeral Directors, of 32, London Road, Wickford. Tel.: 01268-733108

Single or double graves?

When a burial is taking place, and it is thought that the ashes of another person will be added at a later date, the funeral directors should be told at the time so that provision is made for a second interment.

If the remains of two persons are interred in the same grave it should be possible for two plaques to be mounted on the rail, one above the other.

Appearance and upkeep of the Easter Garden

The maintenance of the Easter Garden, including the cutting of grass in and around the whole garden area, will be organised by the Parochial Church Council.

The churchyard is an area of natural beauty. We politely ask visitors to help us keep the area tidy and in good order by not planting anything in the grass and by only leaving natural floral tributes in the central area.