

Dear Colleague,

## **Chancellor's Churchyard Regulations**

The new Churchyard Regulations came into force in November last year.

I am grateful for the support which the Churchyard Regulations have received from parish clergy, churchwardens, PCC members, and monumental masons. I am repeatedly struck by the care and dedication which so many give to maintaining the churchyards of the diocese and to enabling them to continue as places of solace for the bereaved and as worthy settings for our churches.

When the new Churchyard Regulations were introduced I explained that some revision would be likely to be needed in the course of time as we learnt from their operation in practice. Over the last year I have received a number of helpful suggestions as to ways in which the Regulations could be improved. As a result of those and following consultation with the Archdeacon Pastor, the Registrar, and the Diocesan Advisory Committee I have drawn up revised Regulations which will take effect on 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2020 and which accompany this letter. The changes are comparatively modest and are as follows.

There are a number of minor stylistic changes of wording; corrections of infelicities of grammar; and some renumbering of paragraphs.

In paragraphs 24 (j) and (k) words have been added to make it clear that there can be a larger base or slab if this is necessary to comply with the relevant British Standard.

The revised paragraph 37 makes clear what was formerly implicit namely that inscriptions in a language other than English are normally only permissible by faculty. The approach to be taken by the Consistory Court in determining applications for such faculties will depend on any guidance laid down by the Court of Arches in the forthcoming Exhall case and, indeed, in due course the Regulations may need further revision in the light of any such guidance.

Paragraph 38 has been revised to provide for sand or grit blasting to be permissible on granite or slate memorials with particular reservations in the latter instance.

In paragraphs 45 – 48 the image of a dove has been added to those which an incumbent may permit and there has been clarification of the position as to the combination and number of images which can be permitted.

Paragraph 79 now contains an explanation of the rules governing the size of memorials where cremated remains are interred outside an ABCR.

In Schedule 1 the prohibition on dark grey granite has been removed – the prohibition on black granite remains.

Yours sincerely  
*STEPHEN EYRE*  
CHANCELLOR