

The Diocese of St Albans' Churchyard Regulations

Our 3 Churches Benefice is part of The Diocese of St Albans and, as such, we are subject to guidelines and regulations issued by the Bishop of St Albans.

In 2025, The Diocese of St Albans issued some updated churchyard regulations. These are to help you when you are choosing stones, and to ensure the churchyards can be safely and properly maintained.

To view these regulations in full, please visit:
<https://www.stalbansdiocese.org/resource/st-albans-churchyard-regulations-2025-and-the-churchyards-handbook/>.

While we do follow these regulations within our churchyards, they are managed pastorally. Please note that in order to aid maintenance and ensure space is available for everyone, we will periodically tidy and remove items to a safe spot. If you have any queries or concerns, please do be in touch.



The 3 Churches Benefice

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Churchwardens

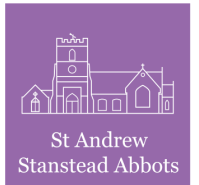
St John the Baptist, Great Amwell with St Mary the Virgin, St Margarets**

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St Andrew's Church, Stanstead Abbots

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The 3 Churches Benefice

CHURCHYARD INFORMATION

*'Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened,
and I will give you rest.'*

Matthew 11:28



Welcome

Welcome to The 3 Churches Benefice of Great Amwell, St Margarets and Stanstead Abbots.

Within these villages, we have three beautiful churchyards: St John the Baptist, St Mary the Virgin at St Margarets, and St James (which serves St Andrew's, the 'new' parish church). All of our churchyards offer a peaceful, quiet and well-maintained resting place for loved ones who have departed before us.



Why choose us?

Our churches sit in a triangle of countryside in the three villages of Great Amwell, St Margarets and Stanstead Abbots, and serve the community by working together to bring God's Good News to everyone.

As a Church Community, we seek to make space for people to meet God in worship and prayer, to belong to God's Family and join our fellowship.

We want to welcome everyone and to help them to walk closer with God, discovering together what it means to 'live life in all its fullness', as Jesus promised we would.

When you lose a loved one it raises questions about life and death, heaven and faith. We are here to help you journey through your loss, and to explore the questions it raises. Our churchyards provide a sacred space for you to lay to rest your loved one, and to visit and find God's peace.



Gravestones and Memorials

We welcome families wanting to bury their loved ones, and we encourage people to place a stone to mark the spot. Please contact us if you want to discuss a Funeral or a Burial of Ashes. There are rules about the size and colour of stones, which help to ensure that churchyards remain both sacred and beautiful. The stonemason should be aware of these Churchyard Regulations and help you with the required paperwork, and we will liaise with you and them to help you choose the right memorial.



Maintenance

To ensure that our churchyards remain safe places of quiet reflection, we carefully maintain the area, cutting grass and managing the many trees. This is only possible through kind donations from families. We are grateful for both regular and occasional donations.

In order to help us to manage and maintain our churchyards, we ask the following:

- * Please only place one pot of flowers or potted plant at an interment plot to ensure adequate space for others.
- * While fresh flowers and bulbs are encouraged, please do not use artificial flowers and other ornamental items around the plot as these can be harmful to wildlife.



- * Flowering annuals are most welcome and bring natural beauty to the churchyard, but we ask that you do not plant perennials, shrubs, bushes or conifers as these can damage gravestones and their plots.

We ask this to ensure that our churchyards remain a living sanctuary to our loved ones who have sadly passed away, and to preserve the diversity of wildlife that God has blessed us with.