

Greetham Burial Ground

Information guide

(DOCUMENT 1)

When you experience a bereavement, there are decisions which need to be made, at what can be a most upsetting time. The following information will hopefully help you.

How to buy a grave.

Normally your funeral director will help you to make the necessary arrangements for purchasing a grave.

You may want to make your own arrangements at the time of the death.

You may wish to reserve and purchase a plot in advance by contacting the clerk to Greetham Parish Council.

When can a burial take place?

A burial can take place on any day except Sunday and English bank holidays, between the hours of 10.00am and 4.00 pm. In special circumstances they can be held outside these days and times, by permission of Greetham Parish Council.

Types of grave available.

A grave can be single or double* depth. It can also be a half size plot for interment of ashes.

**NB: every attempt will be made to achieve double depth plots however, due to significant rock formation, this cannot be guaranteed and therefore to avoid disappointment and/or distress, two single plots side by side or close by, might be preferable.*

All graves are lawn type for easy maintenance. Nothing is allowed to be placed or grown, on or around the grave, and the area in front of the headstone is grassed over.

Graves will be levelled after 12 months.

The exclusive right of burial or interment of ashes lasts for 50 years.

Consecrated and un-consecrated ground.

Greetham Burial Ground has consecrated (blessed as sacred) and unconsecrated areas, where you can buy a grave or scatter ashes. The consecrated ground is blessed as sacred by a Bishop of the Church of England.

Cremated remains

Any scattering or burial of ashes at Greetham Burial Ground requires a Certificate Of Cremation to be presented to the parish clerk. There are two squares in the burial ground especially for scattering of remains: one on consecrated ground and the other on unconsecrated ground. There is no charge for doing this, but the clerk must be informed when this takes place.

There are also half size plots for interment of ashes available to purchase.

Headstones and memorials

A headstone or memorial plaque, which complies with the rules and regulations that govern memorials at Greetham Burial Ground, must be erected within 12 months of interment. The names of all those interred must be included on a permanent marker. This must be maintained in a clean, safe and tidy condition by the deceased's family and friends.

If these rules are not adhered to, the Parish Council will provide a minimal ground plaque with the names and dates of death of the deceased to respect their memory.

It is the Funeral Director's responsibility to make sure the headstone is put up. If within 18 months, this does not take place an invoice for £50 will be raised to the undertaker to cover the cost of the plaque. We suggest to the Funeral Directors that it may be prudent to charge this to the next of kin and refund it once the stone is erected.

Purchase of a memorial tree or bench

A suitable commemorative tree may be purchased and placed in a position agreed with Greetham Parish Council, either at the burial ground or around the village. Before purchasing a tree, the type and positioning of the tree must be agreed with Greetham Parish Council. A small plaque can be displayed on or near it. The wording for the plaque must be approved by Greetham Parish Council. All costs for planting must be covered.

A commemorative bench can also be purchased. The size, style and placement should be agreed with Greetham Parish Council. A commemorative bench may also be placed elsewhere in the village as part of the Greetham Parish Council Memorial Bench scheme. The installation cost and base for any bench must also be paid.

Memorial Book

The church has a memorial book to record deaths of all Greetham residents. To arrange an entry please contact the Church Warden. The cost is £50 per 2-line entry. This includes the person's name and date of death, inscribed by hand with a gold/blue capital letter for the first letter. There are pages for each month of the year, so the book is turned to the appropriate month at the beginning of that month.

Contact

In order to advise relatives of our rules and regulations, the funeral director, or person organising the funeral, is asked to provide the Clerk of Greetham Parish Council with contact details. A copy of this guidance will then be forwarded to that person by post or email.

Please contact the Clerk of Greetham Parish Council at clerk@greethamparishcouncil.gov.uk with any further queries.

May 2026