

## Funerals and Burials

### Entitlement to burial in a Churchyard

Every parishioner and inhabitant of a parish has the right of burial of his/her body in the burial place (unless closed) of their own parish (i.e. parish of residence, or the Electoral Roll of which they were a member). Any person who dies within the area of a parish also has a right of burial, irrespective of the length of time they had spent in the parish (e.g. the victim of a road traffic accident).

The allocation of the burial space and its location is a matter for the parish priest. Any person wishing to reserve a particular plot, for a specific number of years, must apply for a faculty. The Diocesan Registrar can provide the appropriate application forms.

Burial rights now include the interment of cremated remains. Where a burial ground is closed, the interment of cremated remains may take place, but only in accordance with a faculty specifically authorising that burial, or under the terms of a faculty setting aside a specific area for such a purpose.

### Woodland Burials

There are some designated 'Woodland Burial' sites situated within the Diocese (for example that in Hexham Cemetery).

Clergy may occasionally receive requests to conduct funerals and bury deceased persons on private land. All burials are covered by significant legislation, and clergy should take particular care that all necessary legalities are complied with (this will involve at least contact with the civil Registrar of Births, Marriages, Deaths, the owner of the land concerned, the Environmental health Department and the local Planning Department).

See elsewhere in the Diocesan Hand book for information relating to:

- [Church memorials and the care and maintenance of churchyards](#)
- [Churchyards and trees](#)