**All Saints Church, Wimbish with Thunderley**

**In Loving Memory**

**Headstones and Memorial Tablets**

Your loved one has died and following the funeral has been buried in Wimbish churchyard. You may decide that you would like to have a headstone placed to mark your loved one’s grave, or a memorial tablet in the area for burial of cremated remains.

Before doing this, do please speak with the Vicar, or a churchwarden, before you go to a Monumental Mason. There are a number of regulations, made by our Diocese of Chelmsford, concerning headstones and memorial tablets placed in churchyards. All parishes in our Diocese must adhere to these regulations, which apply not only to the type of stone you choose, but also to the size, style, decoration and wording used. The Vicar or churchwardens can explain more about this. Monumental Masons should also have these regulations at hand. All applications for headstones and memorial tablets have to be authorised by the Vicar, who would prefer to speak to you first, to avoid having to return an application to the Mason because it does not conform to the regulations.

Headstones that do not conform to these regulations probably date from many years ago, before the present regulations were drawn up, or have received special permission (a faculty) from the Chancellor of the Diocese. **Please note that headstones in Wimbish churchyard should be of York Stone or Portland Stone.**

**Memorial tablets, in the area for burial of cremated remains, must be 15 inches square and should be of either York Stone or Portland Stone. They should be simply engraved with the name and dates of the person whose remains are buried beneath. The memorial tablets must be installed so that they are level with the grass, to assist maintenance of the area.**

**Ongoing care of the Churchyard, graves and memorial tablets**

We want the churchyard to be a simple, peaceful place where we can remember our loved ones, as well as a place that is attractive for all. To this end, the Parochial Church Council will do all it can to maintain the churchyard by grass cutting. The churchyard also needs to be kept free of clutter and kept clean and tidy. We hope that everyone will help us to do this by please keeping to the following Diocesan regulations.

**On graves only**

* A vase of flowers may be left on the grave or a potted plant. Some graves include a purpose-made hole, or container, for flowers.

**On graves and memorial tablets**

* A simple bunch of fresh flowers with no wrappings, ribbons, paper or cellophane, may be left on the grave or memorial tablet, but should be cleared away before they decay.
* A wreath may be left at Christmas and a simple cross with poppies for Remembrance Sunday.
* No vases, baskets, ornaments, lights, soft toys, candles, artificial flowers should be left on, or near, the graves, or memorial tablets. Any that are left will be removed.
* No flowers, plants or shrubs to be planted near the graves, or near the memorial tablets.
* Please make sure that all dead flowers and foliage are removed and that plastic water containers, pots and oasis are taken home and not left in the churchyard.

Together we can ensure that Wimbish Churchyard remains a lovely place for all. Thank you so much for your help.

**The Vicar and Churchwardens**

**of**

**Wimbish Parish Church**