

HIGHAM WITH MERSTON PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Burials

Parishioners and those on the Church Electoral Roll have the right of burial of bodies or ashes at St Mary's or ashes at St John's.

Those living outside the parish will be permitted burial under the following conditions (and at the discretion of the Vicar and Churchwardens):

- 1) Body burial at St Mary's:
 - a) Only if re-opening a spouse's grave, or that of another relative within two generations and with the approval of other living relatives.
 - b) if there is a demonstrable connection with the Parish, e.g. if a former resident of long standing or former worshipper.

- 2) Burial of Ashes:
 - a) St Mary's: Only if in a family grave as defined in 1a) above, or with a demonstrable connection as defined in 1b) above.
 - b) St John's: If there is a demonstrable connection as defined in 1b) above.

St Mary's Churchyard

In addition to the Chancellor's Regulations governing churchyards, the following will apply:

- No further granite monuments will be permitted.
- Only simple tablets may be placed on graves.
- No non-Christian images will be permitted on graves.
- No further memorial benches will be allowed.
- No monument may be installed until the statutory fee has been received.

St John's Churchyard

Regulations regarding the burial of ashes in the churchyard are displayed on the noticeboard in the porch.

No monuments of any kind are permitted.

No additional memorial trees are permitted.

Revised 22 February 2022.

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Baptisms

All parishioners have the right of baptism in St John's. Church Electoral Roll members have the right of baptism for their children in St John's.

Baptisms for individual families will only take place during the principal Sunday service. However, parents will be offered the alternative of a group baptism, at 11.00 a.m., on a limited number of Sundays per year.

Those applying for baptism must collect and return their forms following attendance at the principal Sunday service.

Those living outside the parish will be permitted baptism only if regularly attending worship at St John's (i.e. at least every 2-3 weeks) for at least 6 months. Exceptions may be made at the discretion of the Vicar and Churchwardens for those serving overseas in H.M. Forces or working abroad temporarily, with a demonstrable connection to the Parish if a former resident of long standing or former worshipper.

St George's School

Entrance Forms: The Vicar will only sign forms if the parent(s) of children applying for entry or the child themselves are regular worshippers (i.e. at least every 2-3 weeks) for six months.

If the parents are applying for entry for their child under other categories, and the parents are occasional attendees, then the Vicar will affirm that this is the situation, particularly if the child in question attends regularly.

Bus Passes: The Vicar will only sign applications for bus passes if the child has worshipped regularly at St John's (i.e. at least every 2-3 weeks) for six months.

St Mary's Church and Churchyard

The PCC will not support any applications for weddings, dedications of marriage, baptisms, thanksgivings for children, or funeral services (except committals in the Churchyard) at St Mary's. The only services will be public worship, 4 times per year, with the Bishop's permission.

Revised 23 May 2017

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Marriage

The PCC has no power to alter the defined legal rights of parishioners, those on the Electoral Roll or those with a qualifying connection to be married at St John's.

1. This PCC does not expect the incumbent to celebrate the marriage of a person who has been divorced.
2. Services of prayer and dedication after a civil service may be offered by the incumbent after consultation, if appropriate, with the Bishop's Office.
3. The PCC would approve petitioning the Bishop for dispensation of second marriage of a divorced person provided that:
 - i) they are members of the worshipping community of at least two years' standing.
 - ii) the incumbent believes they have a worthy case for asking the Bishop for dispensation (see appendix)
 - iii) that they are married by Superintendent Registrar's Certificate and not by banns.
4. A service of prayer and dedication will include whatever elements the couple choose from that service, e.g. music, flowers, bells, photographs, private or public.

12 April 2009