



## **MAWNAN PARISH COUNCIL**

### **Graves and Graveyard Policy - addendum**

#### **Emergency COVID-19 Interment Procedures**

**April 2020**

We understand that relatives and friends would like to continue to attend funerals and, where possible, we would like to facilitate this happening however we do have to work within Government guidelines at this time and as such have had to make changes to our regular processes. We now ask that the following temporary provisions replace those usually used in relation to interments at Mawnan Community Graveyard.

- No interments are to take place until and unless the Burial Officer/Parish Clerk has agreed in writing and interment forms have been returned and signed.

We ask that if at all possible the "Application for Interment" forms included within our *Burial Information & Regulations 2019* document are scanned/photographed and emailed, with payments being made online. The clerk is not working from the office so this will save time.

- Strict Social Distancing protocols MUST be observed during the interment. Ideally immediate family only should be at the graveside. We understand that whilst our graveyard has plenty of space in which to spread out the access to it is limited – please have patience accessing through the churchyard on the narrow paths and allow 2m between individuals.
- Please limit the duration of your graveside services. We do not want to rush anyone but advice is that we commence the filling of graves as quickly as possible after the interment. You are welcome to stay until this takes place (if distance allows)
- Our gravedigger will have the authority to make instruction to mourners for safety reasons.
- No memorials are to be installed unless the Burial Office has agreed and a specific day assigned. Memorial Masons are expected to adhere to social distancing and, if necessary, to arrange methods to close off the area in which they are working/ whole site.

- No digging of plots by individual family members will be permitted – this will include ‘topping up’ of existing graves.

These measures will only be in place so long as the Government restrictions in relation to Covid-19 apply. Increasing, easing or removing of these restrictions will apply with immediate effect to this emergency policy.

Works within the [Old] churchyard are subject to a different set of rules and you should contact the Rev Johanna Clare to confirm exactly what these are.

Currently general Church of England advice is:

*Sadly, funerals may now only happen at the Crematorium or at the graveside. Only immediate family members can attend (if the crematorium allows) – that is, spouse or partner, parents and children, keeping their distance in the prescribed way (this is true also for burial of ashes). No wake or gathering should be held following the funeral, and this should be scheduled for a later date.*

*We recognise how difficult this will be for many and add to the pain of a loss, and encourage you to discuss with your vicar or minister the possibility of a memorial service at a date in the future where more people can be present.*