

Guidelines for Burials and the Interment of Ashes at St Pauls Churchyard

These guidelines are to be administered and if necessary amended by Vestry to ensure that the future use of the churchyard at St Paul's is maintained in keeping with its history and heritage and to ensure it is not exploited. It is not a public cemetery and should never be considered as such. Existing graves are those of families and individuals in the district that have been closely associated with the Church. The management of the extension should be in keeping and in like manner to the existing area. The existing area cannot be fully utilised because of the existence of unmarked Maori graves. Where-as the burials were within the original boundary fence-line there is no guarantee there are not Maori graves in the surrounding area though it is very unlikely. Vestry should consult the St Paul's Committee regarding the maintenance and use of the graveyard when varying the requirements of Vestry guidelines.

Eligibility for Burial in the Churchyard at St Paul's.

1. The gravesites are available for people who have had an active role as a member of the congregation and helped in the maintenance of the church and grounds. The cost of a gravesite would be by donation.
2. Long standing residents of the district as an adult for 15 years or more who are on the parish roll and have lived in the surrounding area. The cost of gravesites would be full price.
3. Long standing residents of any Christian denomination may be buried at the discretion of the Wardens and Clergy.

The graveyard is not available to the general public.

Cost of Gravesites.

Vestry shall maintain the cost of sites at a margin above the cost of the public cemetery in Te Awamutu. Currently the public cost is \$1,100 and it is suggested that the full cost at St Paul's be \$1,400. This amount will be subject to future review.

Headstones.

The design of the headstones shall be in keeping with the headstones in the old section of the churchyard. They shall be no higher than 70cm and shall be narrower than the concrete berm by at least 10cm on each side to allow a mowing strip. The width shall be no greater than 60cm so as to have a space between headstones for sunken flower holders.

Pre-booking.

There will be no pre-booking of an actual site, though pre-approval of burial in the graveyard can be given. When - ever possible double depth graves will be encouraged for spouses or relatives.

Cremations.

Families have been encouraged to inter ashes of loved ones in sites along the side of the path from the gate to the door of the church where there is a berm for the plaques. When those spaces have been utilised a new berm will be constructed elsewhere in the churchyard. For those who wish to inter ashes next or on an existing grave of a relative it is possible, with the approval of the Wardens or Clergy, providing that any plaque be attached to existing concrete on the grave or in the case of the new area on the concrete between the headstones. No plaque shall be mounted in a manner that will impede the mowing of the churchyard. The cost of attaching a plaque on an existing grave or berm will be \$300, to be reviewed together with the grave cost.

Ashes may be scattered on the grass in the graveyard with no memorial plaque at no cost.

It is recommended that the money received for grave sites is used for the maintenance and development of St Paul's church and grounds.

Approved by Vestry 25/9/2013