



Middleham and St. Peter's Parish
Cemetery Management Policy
Approved by the Vestry on June 23, 2009, updated
November 2020

It is the desire of the Middleham and St. Peter's Episcopal Parish to continue to make its historic cemetery a quiet, beautiful place and a symbol of love and faith. To this end, the following policies and rules have been adopted by the Vestry of Middleham and St. Peter's Parish. All those to whom the right to interment in plots or niches has been sold and visitors within the cemetery shall be subject to these rules and regulations, amendments, or alterations.

1. Persons purchasing a "lot" or niche are purchasing a right to interment. At the time of purchase, the buyer shall designate in writing the names of those persons for whom said rights of interment are purchased. In the event a future decision is made not to exercise said rights for that designated person, the vestry shall have the option to repurchase the right of interment at the original price. In no case can a right to interment in this cemetery be conveyed to a third party without the approval of the Vestry.
2. A right to interment in a cemetery lot may be purchased by the following category of individuals: a) Current communicant in good standing; or b) Former communicant who transferred to another church outside the area.
3. The rector shall have the prerogative to adjust the fee for pastoral reasons whenever the right to interment in a lot or niche is sold.
4. The rector may, in a case-by-case consideration, elect to sell the right to interment in a lot or lots to individuals not qualifying under paragraph #2 above.

Fees are as follows:

The current costs for plots in the cemetery and columbarium niches -

| <u>Cemetery plot</u> | <u>Columbarium</u> |
|---|---|
| <p><i>for MSP members and relatives of members:</i></p> <p>Cost for a plot \$1400 (two cremains - \$1700)</p> <p><i>For non-members</i></p> <p>Cost per plot \$2200 (two cremains \$2500)</p> | <p>- Single urn niche - \$1400</p> <p>- Double urn niche - \$1700</p> <p><i>Prices include the standard urn and inscription</i></p> |

5. Generally, only one burial, whether casket or cremated, may be made in each lot in accordance with #1 above. Should there be a request for the interment of two sets of cremains in a single lot, the fee is \$1200 for persons qualifying under #2.
6. Only human remains may be interred in the cemetery.

7. Payment in full is expected at the time the right of interment is sold. A letter bill of sale will be sent to the purchaser at the time of payment.
8. The purchase price includes perpetual care to the same extent as is given all other lots in the cemetery. Perpetual care means that moneys received for the sale rights of interment have been deposited in the grounds fund and will be used for cutting of grass at reasonable intervals, the raking and cleaning of the grounds and the pruning of shrubs and trees that may be placed by the Parish, and other upkeep as approved by the Vestry.
9. The casket must be placed in a burial vault, or in a concrete box, (concrete liner).
10. As a general rule, headstones shall be placed at the east end of the plot, with the inscription facing the west, so that they may be more easily read. The deceased shall be placed in the grave with his/her head to the east.
11. Gravestone styles and inscriptions must be in keeping with other churchyard markers and with the Christian faith as held by the Episcopal Church and are to be approved by the cemetery committee. No above ground tombs are permitted. Military markers are also appropriate. Prohibited items include but are not limited to chains, fencing or edging of any kind, rock borders or rock landscape covering. Grass that can be easily mowed shall cover the plot up to the headstone.
12. If corner markers are installed, this should be done within three months of the burial and such markers must not be larger than 4" x 4", and must be placed flush with the ground to facilitate mowing. The parish reserves the right to remove corner markers that have become an obstruction to cemetery maintenance.
13. Inasmuch as the Vestry retains authority for landscaping and maintenance, no shrubs, trees, or other floral adornments shall be planted.
14. Middleham and St. Peter's Parish is not responsible for the maintenance of headstones or markers. It is the family's responsibility to repair headstones or markers.
15. Flowers and other floral tributes are permitted at the time of interment, and at other appropriate times during the year. Christmas and Easter floral decorations should be removed no later than six weeks following the holiday. The Vestry reserves the right to remove and dispose of any flowers, floral tributes, floral containers or other decorations at any time of periodic maintenance of the cemeteries, and it encourages those who wish to keep such containers to assume responsibility for their prompt removal. U. S. flags may be displayed at appropriate times of the year to commemorate the service of the deceased. (*one week before and three weeks after Memorial Day, Flag Day, 4th of July, Veteran's Day*).
16. Items such as knick-knacks, balloons, windsocks, stuffed animals and non-approved statuary are not permitted in the cemetery. Although the Vestry recognizes that every person and family grieve and remember a beloved member in a variety of ways, tokens of affection other than flowers are not considered appropriate for the cemeteries. These items will be removed.