

ARRANGING A BURIAL

Burials and the interment of ashes must be arranged directly with Biddulph Town Council or through a Funeral Director and a grave digger (authorised by the council).

Biddulph Town Council does not grant exclusive rights of burial. Instead, the burial grounds are managed under an implied rights of burial scheme. Procedures are in place to ensure that responsibilities and authorisation for future interments are properly recorded and understood.

When arranging a burial, you are not purchasing the land itself, but the right for a burial to take place within a specific plot.

There are three types of grave spaces in the burial grounds:

Full Graves

Full-size burial plots, typically used for up to two burials, are available in Woodhouse Burial Ground. These are lawned graves, a memorial can be placed on a concrete raft, and the grave is returned to lawn following the interment.

Half Graves

These plots are designed for cremated remains only and can hold up to twelve sets of remains. They may be marked with either a full-size or half-size memorial.

Garden of Remembrance

The Garden of Remembrance can accommodate up to two caskets of cremated remains per plot. Memorials may take the form of a stone block, with the option to include an additional vase. This site is nearly full.

A new Garden of Remembrance for cremated remains is planned for 2026, each new plot is intended for the interment of up to four sets of cremated remains. Phase 1 of the project will deliver 105 new plots.

For all new interments, grave locations are allocated by Biddulph Town Council. New graves are usually allocated in the next available space in sequence.

There is no option to purchase or reserve a grave plot for future use. However, any existing reservation made under an historical scheme, will be honoured.

Interments in St Lawrence's 'closed' churchyard are administered by the church.

Please contact the church office directly on 01782 513891. Or email the office via office@biddulphchurch.org.uk

If you appoint a funeral director, they will normally manage most of the burial arrangements on your behalf. If you prefer to make the arrangements yourself, (with regard to the interment of cremated remains only) you will need to contact us.

If a new grave is required, we will need the following information:

- your preferred date and time of burial;
- the full name and age of the person who has died; and
- the coffin size.

If an existing grave is to be re-opened, please provide:

- the grave number, or the name of the person(s) already buried in the grave;
- your preferred date and time of burial;
- the full name and age of person who has died;
- the name and address of the Grave Manager, if known;
- the coffin size.

All details must be recorded on the council's 'Notice of Interment Form.'

This form must be completed, signed and the relevant fees paid before the burial can take place. If you use a funeral director, they will assist you in completing the form and will submit it to us, along with the Registrar's or Coroner's certificate for burial or cremation.

Burials and cremations cannot take place without the appropriate certificate issued by the Registrar of Births and Deaths.

The person who signs the Notice of Interment becomes the Grave Manager. This role carries responsibility for authorising any memorials and future interments, as well as maintaining the grave and addressing any safety concerns relating to memorials. Anyone signing the notice should ensure they fully understand these responsibilities.

You can have multiple Grave Managers. This can be arranged by either all relevant parties signing the Notice of Interment, or by a letter of authorisation signed by the existing Grave Manager(s). In either case, it must be clearly stated whether all Grave Managers are required to authorise changes to the grave, or whether any one named individual may do so.

Grave Managers are responsible for ensuring that the grave is kept in a tidy and appropriate condition, that no unauthorised alterations are made, and that any identified repair or maintenance issues are addressed.

Only individuals with a significant connection to Biddulph may be interred with the council's burial grounds. As land is limited, it is important that burial space is used for the benefit of local residents.

All coffins and caskets must include a nameplate showing, as a minimum, the name of the deceased and either the date of death or age at death.

Coffins and caskets must be made from wood or other biodegradable materials, such as wicker.

Due to the limited size of burial plots, coffins must not exceed 6'6" x 26" x 16" (198cm x 66cm x 40cm), including handles.

If a larger coffin is required, please contact us to discuss possible options.

When making your choice, you may want to consider:

- the cost;
- the materials used;
- whether it is environmentally friendly;
- the style of the coffin, and
- the personality and taste of your loved one.

Cremated remains must be placed in a casket with an identifying plaque. The scattering or pouring of ashes is not permitted within graves or anywhere within the burial grounds.

Cremated remains may be interred within a coffin at the same time as a burial, provided the following conditions are met:

- The names of both individuals are recorded on a plaque in the coffin.
- All required interment paperwork for both individuals has been completed.
- The appropriate fees have been paid, including the burial fee and the fee for the interment of cremated remains in an existing grave.

For more information, please read through the council's 'Burial Ground Management Policy.'

Current fees are available on request, or via the council's website (click on the 'Fees 2026-27' tab).