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| Note for | POTR PCC meeting July 2024 |
| Purpose | Criteria for who can be buried in the Holyrood churchyard |
| Date | Agreed at PCC July 2024 |
| Author | Helen Walters, churchwarden |

**Background**

Holyrood churchyard to opening up a new section so that it will have a limited capacity for burials. A previous PCC meeting agreed that no reservations will be taken for this area – known as Area K. There is now a need for clear criteria to guide decisions about who can be buried in the churchyard. There continues to be plenty of space for interring of ashes.

A burial guide from **t**he [Black Combe churches](https://blackcombechurches.co.uk/Home_Page.php) has been used as the basis for this proposed policy.

**Burial Policy for the churchyard of the Church of the Holyrood, Holybourne**

The Church of the Holyrood is part of the Parish of the Resurrection. Therefore this policy applies to the whole parish and its inhabitants.

The following have the legal right to be buried, or have their ashes interred, in the churchyard:

* Any person living in the parish has the right of burial of the parish in which they reside.
* Any person whose death takes place within the area of the parish, irrespective of the length of time they have lived there.
* Any person who, at the date of their death, has their name on the church electoral roll of the parish.
* The spouse, parent or child of a person already buried in the churchyard, if they are being buried/interred in the family grave;
* Someone who left permanent residence in the parish for the sole reason of needing nursing or residential care.

A person fulfilling any of these criteria has the right to be buried, or have their ashes interred, in any consecrated burial ground forming part of the churchyard while there is space for burials / internments.

If for some strong pastoral reason, a person wishes to be buried, or have their ashes interred, in the churchyard but they are not covered by the above, e.g. where someone has lived in the parish for a long period and has moved away recently, or moved away to live closer to their family in later life, the Incumbent and the PCC would meet to decide whether to grant an exception and give consent to a burial.

No other person can be buried, or ashes interred, in the churchyard without the consent of the PCC. If the incumbent declines to allow the burial or interment of a person who has no right of burial, their decision shall be final.

When interring ashes, it is the preference of the PCC that no casket is buried. If a container is required, then this should be rapidly biodegradable (e.g. cardboard). Ashes can be interred, but not scattered.

The PCC has agreed that reservations for burial or the interment of ashes will no longer be taken.

This policy was agreed in June 2024

It will be reviewed 5 yearly, therefore in June 2029