

Note for	POTR PCC meeting June 2023
Purpose	To propose criteria for who can be buried in the Holyrood churchyard
Date	June 2023
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 [the Black Combe churches](#) 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 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 in any consecrated burial ground forming part of the churchyard while there is space for burials.

If for some strong pastoral reason, a person wished to be buried 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 in the churchyard without the consent of the PCC. If the incumbent declines to allow the burial of a person who has no right of burial, their decision shall be final.

The PCC has agreed that burial reservations will no longer be taken.

This policy was agreed in June 2023

It will be reviewed 5 yearly, therefore in June 2028