

### **Purchase in reserve graves available only at Gap Road Cemetery**

We have recently re-introduced at Gap Road Cemetery a policy of allowing a grave space to be purchased for future use, otherwise known as “purchase in reserve”.

There are a limited number of graves currently available to purchase in reserve at Gap Road Cemetery.

Below are some of our key regulations covering this service:

- Graves have been allocated in one section of the Gap Road Cemetery and are only available on that section and no other section.
- Graves at Gap Road Cemetery are traditional in style which allows a full traditional memorial.
  - This allows a full memorial with a maximum size of 0.76 metre (2 feet 6 inches) in width by 1.83 metres (6 feet) in length. Alternatively a lawn style headstone can be erected at the head of the grave, which then allows a garden space with a maximum size of 0.76 metre (2 feet 6 inches) in width by 1.52 metres (5 feet) in length; this is left for planting bedding flowers or small shrubs.
  - The grave owner is responsible for the planting and the upkeep of the garden space. Please note the following are not allowed: any type of fence/edging, any type of gravel/glass chippings on or around the garden space/grave. We will remove these items if found on the graves.
- We will allocate the grave position, that being the next available unreserved grave in sequence.
- The section is multi faith. There are no separate sections for different religions.
- The lease period is a maximum of 50 years and in the name of one person only.
  - When the grave is purchased, a Grant of Exclusive Right of Burial will be issued to the named person on the completed Purchase In Reserve form.
  - If you are the registered owner of the Grant of Exclusive Right of Burial, you have the automatic right to be buried in the grave. You may also allow others to be buried in the grave (space permitting). You do not own the grave. The ownership of the grave and the cemetery land remains with us.
  - The Grant of Exclusive Right of Burial allows the owner a lease period for 50 years on the grave

- In the following circumstances a transfer of the ownership will be required:
  - The registered owner decided to assign the grave to another member of the household.
  - An application is made for a burial in the grave but the registered owner is previously deceased.
  - An application to place a memorial/additional inscription on the grave is made but the registered owner is previously deceased.
  - If the registered owner has recently died. This makes future arrangements easier if there is a living registered owner.
  - Please see our web site [www.merton.gov.uk/cemeteries](http://www.merton.gov.uk/cemeteries) for further information on transfer of ownership.
  
- The service is available to residents and non-residents of Merton Borough. Please note there is a difference in price for non residents.
  
- There is a surcharge to purchase a grave in reserve. Please see our web site [www.merton.gov.uk/cemeteries](http://www.merton.gov.uk/cemeteries) for our fees and charges.
  
- Only one purchase is allowed per household.
  
- The graves are only for coffin burials and cremation remains.
  
- Each grave can accommodate a maximum of three coffin burials (this is determined on the first interment) and 12 cremation remains if required.
  
- Payment will be required in full by credit or debit card by the end of the next working day following the viewing of the grave.
  
- The grave space must remain clear at all times until a burial has taken place. A memorial can be placed one year after a burial upon the issuing of a memorial permit.

The lease is the Exclusive Right of Burial for that particular grave. The purchaser receives a legal document called a Deed of Grant indicating that they have purchased the Exclusive Right of Burial of a particular grave.

If you are interested please contact the Cemetery Office on 020 8545 3666 and we can make arrangements to meet you during the working week at Gap Road Cemetery to view the grave being offered.

Our fees and charges are available on our web pages:  
[www.merton.gov.uk/cemeteries](http://www.merton.gov.uk/cemeteries)