

BURIAL GROUND RULES AND REGULATIONS

OF THE CONGREGATION OF CLONDUFF PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, COUNTY DOWN, DULY ADOPTED AT A DULY CONVENED MEETING OF THE SESSION AND COMMITTEE OF ABOVE CONGREGATION HELD ON 1st JUNE 2021

1. Members of the above Congregation whose names are on the Roll of the Congregation or are deemed as such by members by the Graveyard Committee, will receive, where necessary and when available, the privilege of burial ground.
2. These rules and regulations are binding on all members of the Congregation, and all who are deemed to have burial rights within the graveyard.
3. No person shall have any right or interest in the burial ground save as hereafter provided, unless they come within the provisions of clause 1 hereof and save as above the mere fact that any person has ancestors or relatives buried in the burial ground of this congregation shall not of itself give any rights or interest in said burial ground. Any other person granted the right of burial by the Graveyard Committee shall pay the-agreed fees as listed in Table 1.
4. The management of the graveyard of said Congregation shall be entirely in the hands of the Congregational committee which may appoint from its members a Graveyard Committee, with full congregational powers, to act for it in all graveyard matters. No grave shall be opened, nor headstone erected, nor inscription placed on any memorial, nor shrub or plant laid or planted in any part of the burial ground, without the prior approval of such Graveyard Committee.
5. No risk nor responsibility in connection with the erection of headstones or opening of graves or other work permitted by the committee to be undertaken in the burial ground, or in connection with damage to the monuments or mementoes, shrubs or plants, shall rest on either the Congregational Committee or the Graveyard Committee, or on the Church Trustees. No work, including opening of graves, erection of monuments/memorials etc shall be undertaken without approval from the Graveyard Committee.
6. The burial space permitted on the granting of privilege of burial shall be entirely in the hands and granted at the discretion of the Graveyard Committee, who, in so deciding, shall consider the necessity of the family concerned as regards burial, and in exercise of their discretion the decision of the Graveyard Committee shall be final and binding. The space allotted to any member for burial rights must not exceed two grave widths, except by special permit. Headstones, memorials, shrubs, etc. erected with the sanction provided for in clause 4 hereof must be erected only inside the space allotted for burial. Memorials should be limited to headstones only. Every new grave must be sunk at least six feet where practicable and not more than two coffins shall be placed in each grave, the last coffin to be not less than two feet six inches from the surface of the ground.

7. Any act, matter, or thing done in the graveyard contrary to clause 4 hereof shall be an act of trespass, and if any memorial of any kind, plant, shrub etc., be erected or planted contrary to clause 4, those responsible for the erection and planting of same must remove same on demand, and in default thereof the same may be removed without notice being given to anyone by the Graveyard Committee or their agents, and without responsibility by such person or persons removing same for any loss or damage occasioned by such removal.

8. Any member of this Congregation having burial rights under these regulations shall have no further rights of burial on ceasing to be a member of this Congregation. However, if they wish to retain burial rights, they can choose to pay the annual retainer costs as detailed in Table 1. These costs shall be paid in each calendar year prior to the 31st of December. [In order to assist with this option of an annual fee, a direct debit facility is recommended.]

Failure to pay the annual retainer fees may result in the loss of burial rights.

9. The decision of the Graveyard Committee shall be final and binding in all matters arising out of these rules and regulations, and also in the case of all disputes as to burial rights, burial sites or memorials etc., which disputes must be left in all cases to the decision of the Graveyard Committee.

10. Funeral services in the graveyard as in the Church shall be conducted only by the Minister of this Congregation, or by some other person with his sanction, or in the absence of the Minister, with the sanction of the other members of the Kirk Session.

11. The Graveyard Committee shall have power at all times to make any necessary improvements or alterations in the graveyard, such as removal of trees or bushes, or the restoration of slanting or leaning monuments.

12. On the granting of burial rights to non members of the congregation as hereinbefore provided the person to whom such burial rights are granted shall be liable to pay to the Graveyard Committee the appropriate amounts as detailed in Table 1

13. The Committee will reserve the right at a properly constituted meeting to amend, alter, revise or repeal any of these rules and regulations and amend fees as appropriate.

14. The graveyard is for the interment of human remains only.

15. These rules shall supersede previous versions and shall come into operation and be effectual as from. 1st June 2021

_____ Robert Graham (Graveyard Convenor)

Table 1.

Clonduff Presbyterian Church - Graveyard fees.	
Congregation member	No charges.
Non Member - New grave - Single plot	£200
Non Member - New grave - Double plot	£350
Non Member - Annual retainer	£30
Burial Fees	No charge