

The history of remembering, which lies at the heart of the Christian faith and is reflected in the heritage of memorials for the departed, has with the growth of population, the increase of personal wealth and the development of technology entered a new phase at the start of a new millennium. Like many places of worship, Rochester Cathedral has had to reconsider the principles and practice of introducing memorials into the church so that the power and integrity of the architecture are not overwhelmed by memorials and plaques. New memorials will only now be considered in very exceptional circumstances and must always conform to the following criteria. All decisions will be made by the Dean and Chapter in consultation with cathedral's Fabric Advisory Committee.

Principles

- The cathedral is holy space, 'owned' by none and all
- A memorial should respect its surroundings and allow the cathedral to 'speak' clearly and calmly.
- A memorial should not impose an unreasonable burden on future generations.
- An inscription must be appropriate to the cathedral and for posterity

Policy

- ⊕ **the person to be commemorated must have an obvious connection with the cathedral beyond that of a worshipper: the name to be commemorated must have a significance of diocesan/regional, national or international standing**
- ⊕ **the memorial should in some way be educative or inspirational**
- ⊕ **the memorial should be doctrinally sound in the Anglican tradition**
- ⊕ **the memorial should be an artistic and aesthetic adornment to the cathedral**
- ⊕ **a memorial and/or inscription will not normally be considered until at least two years have elapsed since the departed's death**

Praxis

- ❖ the Dean and Chapter will identify locations and possible new forms of remembrance
- ❖ a list of items of required furnishings, liturgical objects and possible artworks will be available; such gifts do not carry an inscription
- ❖ a coherent pattern of remembrance will be sought throughout the building and garth
- ❖ memorials must primarily give glory to God and emphasise the continuity and commonality of the Christian family over and above individual personalities, family lineages and worldly power, status and privilege

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