



Merton Cemeteries Services and Information

The background of the page is a repeating pattern of light grey floral motifs. Each motif consists of a central flower with several petals, surrounded by a cluster of small, round buds. From the center of each flower, a thin, curved stem extends outwards, bearing several small, oval-shaped leaves. The pattern is dense and covers the entire page.

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Welcome

We appreciate that during this difficult time you will have to make important decisions about the cemetery and grave you would like for your loved one's funeral. Ensuring that they're laid to rest in pleasant surroundings in a well-tended plot is extremely important. This booklet is intended to help and advise you through this difficult time.

Merton cemeteries and contact details

Merton Council runs four cemeteries in the borough, taking care of the landscape, chapels, layout, burial service and management of each one. In this booklet, you can find information about Gap Road Cemetery, London Road Cemetery and Merton & Sutton Joint Cemetery including visiting hours, grave maintenance and taking care of your garden space. Merton also looks after Church Road Cemetery in Mitcham, which is also known as St. Peter & St. Paul's Cemetery. Please note this cemetery is closed for new burials, however we can accept burials for graves that have been previously purchased. Our cemeteries are multi-faith and multi-cultural, catering for Church of England, Roman Catholic, Muslim, Ahmadiyya Muslim, African Caribbean, Jewish, non conformist, and humanist burials.

You can find information in this booklet about grave care which includes some useful points about grave maintenance and what you need to know about items that can be added to your grave, planting, and making sure that the cemetery is a peaceful place to visit. Gap Road Cemetery, London Road Cemetery and Merton & Sutton Joint Cemetery have new graves; each cemetery has different grave styles, all of which are outlined in this booklet too. You will also find information about our chapels, which can be used for a service before a burial and are suitable for all faiths and beliefs.

Contact us

If you'd like to find out more about all the services provided by the council's cemeteries team visit:

merton.gov.uk/cemeteries
call 020 8545 3666
or email cemeteries@merton.gov.uk

Cemeteries Office
Civic Centre
London Road
Morden SM4 5DX

Cemetery information and locations

Gap Road Cemetery, Wimbledon

Bus routes 156 and 439

Situated on Gap Road, the cemetery opened in 1876, is approximately 20 acres in size and is also known as Wimbledon Cemetery.

Gap Road Cemetery has new graves available for traditional, American casket graves (only available for wooden style caskets) and cremation remains burials. The grave spaces are available to both Merton residents and people from outside of the borough.

The chapel at Gap Road Cemetery seats 40 and has space for an additional 10 standing. It also has a hearing induction loop and music system.

Gap Road Cemetery is located at Gap Road, Wimbledon SW19 8JA. The toilets (including a disabled toilet) are open during funerals.





London Road Cemetery, Mitcham

Bus routes 264, 280, 355, 270 and Tooting Railway Station

London Road Cemetery opened in April 1929 and is approximately 15 acres in size. The cemetery caters for different religions, and both consecrated and unconsecrated areas are available.

London Road cemetery is open to residents of Merton as well as people from outside the borough. New graves are available in the lawn section which includes American casket graves (only available for wooden style caskets) and a cremated remains section.

In 2015 London Road Cemetery was extended, this will provide new burial space for the next 18 years.

The chapel at London Road Cemetery seats 80 people and has space for an additional 40 people standing. It also has wheelchair access, an electric organ, hearing induction loop and music system.

London Road Cemetery is located at London Road, Mitcham CR4 3LA. The toilets (including a disabled toilet) are open during funerals.



Merton & Sutton Joint Cemetery, Morden

Bus routes 293,163

Merton & Sutton Joint Cemetery opened in 1947 and is approximately 29 acres in size. Merton Council manages and maintains the cemetery for the Merton & Sutton Joint Cemetery Board.

The chapel at Merton & Sutton Joint Cemetery is suitable for all faiths and beliefs. The chapel has seating capacity for 96 people and space for an additional 50 people standing as well as pushchair and wheelchair access. It also has an electric organ, music system and a hearing induction loop available.

Merton & Sutton Joint Cemetery is located at Garth Road, Morden SM4 4NW. The toilets (including a disabled toilet) are open during cemetery opening hours.





Opening hours: Gap Road and London Road cemeteries

Time of year	Monday to Saturday	Sunday
January, February November, December	9am to 3.30pm	10am to 3.30pm
March, October	9am to 5.30pm	10am to 5.30pm
April, September	9am to 7pm	10am to 7pm
May, June, July, August	9am to 8pm	10am to 8pm
Public holidays	10am to 6pm	10am to 6pm
Christmas and New Year's Day	10am to 3pm	10am to 3pm

Merton & Sutton Joint Cemetery

Time of year	Monday to Friday	Saturday	Sunday
January, February, November, December	9am to 4pm	9am to 4pm	10am to 4pm
March, October	9am to 5.30pm	9am to 5.30pm	10am to 5.30pm
April, September	9am to 7pm	9am to 6pm	10am to 6pm
May, June, July, August	9am to 8pm	9am to 6pm	10am to 6pm
Public holidays	10am to 6pm	10am to 6pm	10am to 6pm
Christmas and New Year's Day	10am to 3pm	10am to 3pm	10am to 3pm

Information about graves

Our cemeteries are all multi-faith. We have different types of graves available including lawn section graves, traditional graves and cremation remains graves.

Please take a look through our guidance below to find out more about what kind of garden spaces, grave types and memorials you can have in Merton's cemeteries.

On page 13, you can find information about grave care which includes some useful points about grave maintenance and what you need to know about items that can be added to your grave, planting, and making sure that the cemetery is a peaceful and restful place to visit.

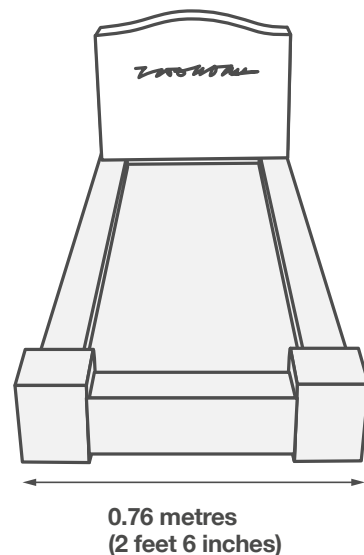
Grave types and sizes

Traditional graves

Only available at Gap Road Cemetery.

Traditional graves allow for a full memorial at a maximum size of 0.76 metre (2 feet 6 inches) wide by 1.83 metres (6 feet) in length.

If you'd like a garden space, lawn style headstones can be erected at the head of the grave which allows a garden space with a maximum size of: 0.76 metre (2 feet 6 inches) wide by 1.52 metres (5 feet) in length this is left for planting bedding flowers or small shrubs.





Public graves

Available at London Road Cemetery, and Merton & Sutton joint Cemetery.

For people who don't want a private grave, we provide public grave spaces. Each grave accommodates four unrelated burials and the cemeteries service will decide who is to be buried in each public grave. Because public graves are available to any person, the same grave cannot be reserved for other family members.

People are welcome to arrange for a headstone to be added to a public grave with three lines of inscription for each burial. If we receive a request for a headstone, we will get in touch with each family who has a loved one buried in a public grave and ask for a contribution towards the cost of the headstone.

Although the cemetery does not purchase the headstone, this remains the property of the cemetery authority, which also co-ordinates requests for inscriptions from families whose relatives are buried in the public grave. Public graves do not have garden spaces, they are grassed over and kept clear so that we can maintain the grave and area around it.

Lawn graves

Available at Merton & Sutton Joint Cemetery and London Road Cemetery.

Lawn graves have a simple appearance and are mown regularly throughout the growing season.

A lawn style headstone can be erected at the head of the grave, which then allows a garden space with a maximum size of 1.22 meters (4 feet) in width by 0.46 meter (18 inches) in length.



Lawn grave



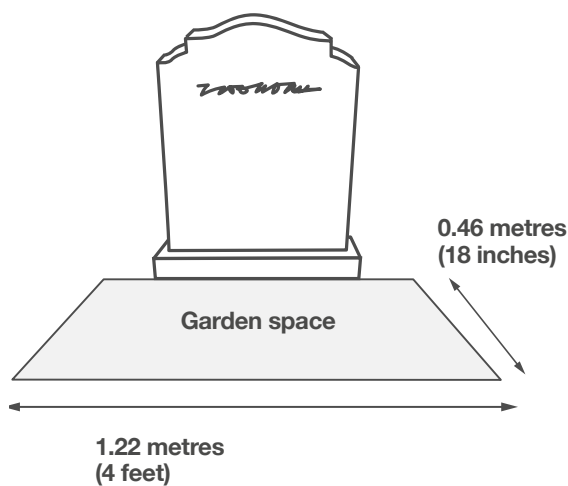
Public grave

Garden space

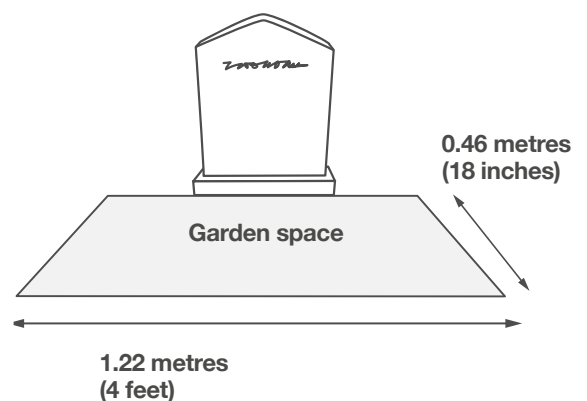
For lawn style graves and cremation remains graves.

Having a garden space is optional for both lawn style headstones and cremation remains graves and if you decide to have one, the family and the grave owner are responsible for taking care of the space. If you decide not to have a garden space, we can turf over the area. We ask that this area remains clear so that we can maintain and cut the grass and areas around each grave.

Please see page 13 for more information about the upkeep of your grave, the maximum size garden space available and the items that are not permitted on or around the grave space.



Garden space grave



Garden space cremation remains grave



Cremation remains graves

Available all Merton cemeteries.

Cremation remains graves are the the same style as lawn graves and have the option of a garden space (see page 10). The grave is leased for either 25 or 40 years. A maximum of 6 interments per grave is allowed. A headstone is allowed at the head of the grave, which can be the same size as a lawn grave head stone.

Memorials

Depending on the type of grave, memorials can be added almost immediately or approximately one year after the burial, when the soil has settled.

When you are ready to choose a memorial you will need to get in touch with a memorial mason who is registered with us. Visit: merton.gov.uk/memorials for a full list of registered memorial masons, sizes allowed for each grave type and photographs of memorial types. The memorial mason will advise you on the type of memorial you can get and once you have chosen the design you'd like, the mason will apply for a permit to erect the memorial.

Temporary markers

Temporary markers such as wooden crosses with a maximum height 0.76 metres (2 feet 6 inches) can be added to the grave for the first year from the date of burial.



Grave ownership

After a burial in a new grave, a deed called the Grant of Exclusive Right of Burial will be issued to the grave owner confirming that person is the owner of the grave*. The deed will also state the length of the lease period.

- **For a coffin or casket grave** the lease period can be either 50 years or 75 years, with a maximum of two persons being the grave owner.
- **For a cremation remain grave** the lease can be either 25 years or 40 years, with a maximum of two persons being the grave owner.

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).

*Graves have a lease and the ultimate ownership of the grave and cemetery land remains with the council. The Grant of Exclusive Right of Burial will be issued to the named person stated on our interment form.

Transfer of ownership

In the following circumstances a transfer of ownership will be required if:

- The registered owner wishes for another immediate family member to become the owner.
- An application is made for a burial in the grave but the registered owner is deceased.
- An application to place a memorial/additional inscription on the grave is made but the registered owner is deceased.
- The registered owner has recently died.

Visit: merton.gov.uk/grave-ownership for more information about transfer of ownership.

Caring for your grave

Please take a moment to look through this section. It shows how the cemeteries team can assist you in taking care of your grave plot. We've also included some useful points about grave maintenance, what you need to know about planting and items that can be added to your grave.

See page 8 –11 for guidance on garden spaces, graves types and memorials.



Garden space

Upkeep of garden space

If the grave owner and family require a garden space they are responsible for the planting and up-keep of the space.

We offer a grave care scheme for garden spaces. See below for information on our up-keep service that we offer throughout the year.

Grave care scheme

We know it isn't always easy to keep a loved one's grave well-kept and planted all year round.

Our grave care scheme provides a range of services that will help with the upkeep of your loved one's grave throughout the year.

Our services include:

- Spring and summer flower planting
- Preparing and maintaining your grave's garden space all year round

To find out more about the cost of these services and other services available to you at Gap Road Cemetery, London Road Cemetery, Church Road Cemetery and Merton & Sutton Joint cemetery, visit: merton.gov.uk/cemeteries
email: cemeteries@merton.gov.uk or telephone: 020 8545 3666.

Restricted items

Cemeteries in Merton are well kept thanks to the help from our grave-owners. To make sure that our cemeteries continue to be tranquil places to visit, we have to restrict the way that graves are kept. There are some items that we ask grave-owners and family members to refrain from placing on or around their grave space, mainly for safety reasons but also to ensure that our cemeteries are kept pleasant and attractive.

Restricted items include, fencing, edging, gravel, glass chippings, glass vases and solar lights. Unfortunately, if any of these items are placed on or around the grave they will be taken away.

If you have any questions about maintaining your grave space, please feel free to contact our cemeteries team who will advise you.

Reserving graves for future use

We understand that sometimes people plan ahead and think about where they, or their loved ones, would like to be buried. At Gap Road Cemetery we have a number of graves available for people to reserve for future use. These are called 'purchase in reserve' graves and can be reserved for coffin burials and cremation remains.

If you are interested in reserving a grave for future use, please contact the Cemetery Office on 020 8545 3666 or visit: merton.gov.uk/purchase-in-reserve
If you'd like to visit the cemetery and view the grave space available we can make arrangements to meet you during the working week.

Venue hire

If you need a venue for a wake, celebration of life party or memorial. Morden Assembly Hall is the perfect place. The hall can accommodate up to 100 people seated and 120 people standing and has a stage, PA system, kitchen and disabled access. There is also a car park adjacent to the hall that is free to use with space for up to 50 cars.

Address Tudor Drive, Morden, SM4 4PJ

Bus routes 413, 293, 163

visit: merton.gov.uk/mordenassemblyhall

Useful links

For information on cemeteries not located in Merton visit:
merton.gov.uk/othercemeteries

For guidance to help you through the process of arranging a funeral, including how to access financial support visit:
merton.gov.uk/funerals

For bereavement counselling and support visit:
merton.gov.uk/counselling



Family history and research

Burial registers

Visit: merton.gov.uk/burialregisters to search Merton's burial registers online.

Birth, death and marriage registers

You can search Merton Register Office's birth, death and marriage indices in person, by appointment.

To get in touch with Merton Register Office, call: 020 8274 5777 or email: register.office@merton.gov.uk

Historical electoral registers and parish registers

Historical electoral registers (prior to 2002) and some parish registers (pre 1812) are available to view at Merton Heritage and Local Studies Centre.

Heritage staff can also assist with proof of residency checks for anyone wishing to bury a loved one in a Merton cemetery.

For more details please visit: merton.gov.uk/heritage

Birth, death or marriage certificates

If a birth, death or marriage occurred in Merton, copies of certificates are available. Please contact: register.office@merton.gov.uk or 020 8274 5777 to place an order.

Geneology

A range of family and local history material can also be found at Merton Heritage & Local Studies Centre, Morden Library. If you would like to research your family history visit: nationalarchives.gov.uk

The image shows two pages of a handwritten burial register. The left page is labeled 'Page 110' and the right page is labeled 'Page 111'. Both pages are titled 'BURIALS in the Parish of Merton in the County of Surrey in the Year 1857'. The tables contain columns for Name, Date, Time Buried, Age, and By what Authority Buried. The entries are handwritten in ink.

Page 110				
Name	Date	Time Buried	Age	By what Authority Buried
William Jansing	Merton	Jan 18	77	Edkings Vicar
Elizabeth Charity	Merton	Jan 18	71	M. G. Bodd
Elizabeth Angell	Merton	Feb 3	7	M. G. Bodd
George Henry	Merton	Feb 15	11 1/2	M. G. Bodd
Harriet Dean	Merton	Feb 24	35	Edkings Vicar
Joseph Jansing	Merton	Feb 25	97	M. G. Bodd
Edith Bennett	Merton	Mar 9	1	Edkings Vicar
Anna Elizabeth Dean	Merton	Mar 25	24	M. G. Bodd

Page 111				
Name	Date	Time Buried	Age	By what Authority Buried
Jane Hatfield	Merton	Apr 7	70	M. G. Bodd
Jane Correll	Merton	Apr 20	62	Edkings Vicar
Samuel Bodd	Merton	Apr 27	77	Edkings Vicar
John Thomas Bodd	Merton	Apr 27	2 1/2	Edkings Vicar
Mary Bodd	Merton	May 7	12	Edkings Vicar
Mary Anne Bodd	Merton	June 1	3	Edkings Vicar
Mary Eliza Bodd	Merton	June 27	16	Edkings Vicar
Thomas Henry Bodd	Merton	June 30	16	Edkings Vicar

Cemetery entrances



Gap Road Cemetery, Wimbledon SW19 8JA



London Road Cemetery, Mitcham CR4 3LA



Merton & Sutton Joint Cemetery, Morden SM4 4NW