

## **Policy Regarding Benches in Churchyard**

The placing or addition of benches in the grounds of St Laurence's Church and St Leonard's burial ground, eg as a result of donations, is subject to approval by the PCC. In reaching a decision, the PCC will seek advice from, and receive recommendations from, the Fabric Committee as appropriate.

Criteria for approval include suitability with respect to design, construction and durability. Any donation should not only cover the cost of the bench, but also costs associated with the preparation of the ground on which it is to be placed, suitable secure fixing and the modest additional costs associated with its maintenance. Normally the bench would remain in position for a minimum of 10 years, at which point the PCC reserves the right to dispose of or reposition the bench.

Any dedication should take the form either of wood carving along the top rail of the bench or an affixed small brass plaque (not exceeding 15 x 10 cm).

### **Maintenance of Benches**

Routine maintenance requires annual light sanding and oiling of the bench (eg with teak oil) or painting, as determined by the PCC. The PCC and the donor will make arrangements for these costs to be met by the latter.

### **Liability**

The PCC cannot accept any liability for damage to a bench. Repair costs will be borne by the donor. The PCC reserves the right to remove any bench which, in its opinion, is in a condition which is dangerous to the public or detracts from the appearance of the churchyard, if no arrangement for repair can be reached. The PCC will store such benches for a maximum of one calendar month, pending return to the donor.