

## CREMATION AND CHURCH INTERMENT



remation is an ancient tradition and has been widely practiced throughout the world from earliest times. As Christians, we regard burning as a properly reverent way of disposing of objects blessed for religious use, such as prayer books, altar linens and palms. By common Christian consent, we agree that this is a reverent way of recycling that which has been set apart and used to the glory of God.

Cremation has been embraced by The Episcopal Church for many years as an acceptable, proper and dignified way of treating the human body at the time of death. Almost a quarter of all Americans now choose cremation over other means of burial.

In response to this need, special areas have been set apart within church grounds for the care and safekeeping of cremated remains. This may be either a special garden area, a columbarium, or both, as in the case at St David's. Incidentally, the word columbarium is derived from the Latin for "dovecote," the compartmented housing for doves. The dove is the symbol of God's Spirit and of peace.



### ST. DAVID'S GARDEN

The Memorial Garden at St. David's is situated in a recessed area, between the church and the office/classroom wing, and is accessible through an interior hallway on the lower level. Lovingly tended by a faithful group of skilled volunteers, it provides a beautiful and peaceful setting for the two columbaria and direct interment area.

Interment within the Memorial Garden provides a link visible to us in this life between deceased Christians and their church body, enabling family and friends to pay their respects and refresh their remembrances frequently as a part of regular worship.

### TWO OPTIONS

The original columbarium wall was established in 1973 and comprises 128 niches, all of which have now been purchased. In August of 2011 an additional **COLUMBARIUM UNIT** containing 40 niches was added to ensure continued availability for current and future generations of the church.

It was also decided at that time to add an area in the garden for the **DIRECT INTERMENT** of cremated remains. Set off by a border of evergreen boxwood shrubs and flanked by two guardian angels, cremated remains are placed directly into the ground, without container or marker, and the names of those interred are included on a bronze plaque on the wall above that area of the garden.



## ENSURING THE LEGACY

We are committed at St. David's to keeping our gardens vital and beautiful for current and future generations to enjoy. Much of this work is done through the volunteer efforts of parishioners, but it still requires a significant financial commitment to make this work possible.

A gift in memory of, or thanksgiving for a loved one or friend is an excellent way to honor that person while at the same time supporting the legacy of the St. David's Memorial Garden. Gifts of any size are welcome, and are tax deductible to the extent permitted by law.

Gifts may be sent to the attention of the Business Manager at 4700 Roland Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21210, and made payable to "St. David's Memorial Garden Fund."



FATHER OF ALL,

WE PRAY TO YOU FOR THOSE WE LOVE, BUT SEE NO LONGER;  
GRANT THEM YOUR PEACE; LET LIGHT PERPETUAL SHINE UPON THEM;

AND, IN YOUR LOVING WISDOM AND ALMIGHTY POWER,  
WORK IN THEM THE GOOD PURPOSE OF YOUR PERFECT WILL;

THROUGH JESUS CHRIST OUR LORD.

AMEN.



ST DAVID'S CHURCH

4700 Roland Avenue  
Baltimore, Maryland 21210  
410-467-0476

[www.stdavidsrolandpark.com](http://www.stdavidsrolandpark.com)



## PLANNING FOR YOUR FUTURE

If you would like to purchase a niche or plan for direct interment, or if you would like additional information about the Memorial Garden, please contact the church office at 410-467-0476.



THE MEMORIAL GARDEN OF



ST DAVID'S CHURCH



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