

Re St James, Ravenfield

Sheffield Consistory Court: Singleton Ch, 4 August 2019

[2019] ECC She 2

Memorial – kerbstones – material – judicial transparency

The petitioner sought a faculty for the installation of a kerbset and desk memorial at his family's burial plot, in memory of his parents. The design would incorporate an existing headstone and cube memorial. The memorial was incompatible with the diocesan churchyard regulations, in relation to both kerbstones and the proposed use of dark grey granite. The Diocesan Advisory Committee did not object to the petition but also set out the relevant paragraphs of the churchyard regulations which explained the preference for a traditional, locally quarried sandstone which was predominantly historically used in the churchyard.

The chancellor found that the kerbset would not significantly hinder maintenance of the churchyard as other graves in the churchyard had similar kerbstones. They would enhance the memorial aesthetically and possibly make the maintenance of this grave easier because they would abut the cube memorial. The introduction of granite was regrettable in a churchyard with memorials predominantly of yellow-brown sandstone. However, as the existing memorial was also granite, it would be inconsistent not to allow the additions to be in granite. The chancellor also made clear that, although the petitioner was, like herself, a circuit judge, she had never, to her knowledge, met him. [Catherine Shelley]

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Re All Hallows, Bardsey

Leeds Consistory Court: Hill Ch, 5 August 2019

[2019] ECC Lee 3

Re-ordering – pew frontals

The petitioners sought a faculty for various works within this Grade I listed church of Anglo-Saxon origin. Most were uncontroversial. The petitioners also wished to remove pew frontals in the north and south aisles, in order to improve access for wheelchair and pushchair users, and to extend the areas where special events could be held. The Victorian Society commented that the benches as a whole were a very good set, and to reduce them at all would be regrettable. Nonetheless, the only proposal objected to was the removal of the pew frontals, indicating that they should be retained and not disposed of. Historic England (HE) also noted the quality of the woodwork, and asked that