

Neutral Citation: [2021] EC Sodor 3

IN THE CONSISTORY COURT OF THE DIOCESE OF SODOR AND MAN

IN THE MATTER OF ST PAUL'S FOXDALE

AND

IN THE MATTER JAMES WALMSLEY'S APPLICATION

JUDGMENT

Introduction

1. This is an application by James Walmsley for a faculty authorising the erection in the newer part of the graveyard of St Paul's Foxdale of a memorial to his wife, Margaret. The incumbent, the Rev. Canon Janice Ward, consulted me, by e-mail on 1 June this year about the application and whether it fell within her delegated authority or whether, because of its shape, with a curved top and scalloped sides, a faculty was required. On the same day I indicated that, although the design was tasteful and entirely appropriate, it fell outside the delegated authority because of the shape of the sides. The reason for the shape was that Mrs Walmsley had loved lilies, the shape was reminiscent of a lily flower. Moreover, the reverse of the memorial was to have a depiction of a bunch of lilies

Background

2. The church of St Paul Foxdale was consecrated in 1876, and one of the principal reasons given was that the people of Foxdale needed a graveyard, burials having previously had to take place in Patrick, 5 miles away.
3. In order to assess the impact of the proposed memorial on its surroundings, I visited the cemetery at St Paul's yesterday. The existing memorials in the area where Mrs Walmsley is buried are mainly of black polished granite, the same material as that proposed for her memorial and, for the most part, they are similar in size to that now proposed. All have straight sides and most have a simple curved top comprising a single arc, but there is some variation. Many are decorated with distinctive engraving, some have coloured representations of flowers on one side or the other and two have etched photographs of the deceased on the front face. It will be apparent from this brief description that there is no consistency, and certainly a lack of uniformity, in the styles adopted in the existing memorials. I have therefore asked myself whether the proposed stone in memory of Margaret Walmsley would look out of place. I remain of the view which I originally expressed to Canon Ward in June that, although the shape of the memorial is eccentric

(that being the term used in the existing delegation issued by my predecessor, Faulds, VG), the overall effect is both tasteful and appropriate.

4. The Diocesan Advisory Committee recommended the grant of a faculty subject to some minor points on the wording to be used. The Registrar expressed concern about the inscription of four kisses on the stone. After an exchange between the Petitioner and the Registry that was reduced to three.

Conclusion

5. A faculty will issue to authorise the erection of the proposed memorial with either version of the inscription proposed by the Diocesan Advisory Committee and subject to there being no more than three kisses. The dates of birth and death are to be placed below the inscription and the kisses, all of which are to be centrally justified on the stone.

W. Howard Connell

Vicar General and Chancellor, Diocese of Sodor and Man

24 October 2021