

In the Consistory Court of the Diocese of Blackburn

In the Matter of the Parish of Standish St Wilfrid, and

In the Matter of the Petition of Elaine Elizabeth Durrington to exhume the cremated remains of Cyril Halstead Cawthron

JUDGMENT

- 1) This petition was lodged by Mrs Elaine Elizabeth Durrington on 3rd March 2018. On 26th March I prepared a Note setting out a number of questions that needed to be answered before I could deal with the matter. The petitioner has provided me with answers commendably quickly, and I am grateful.
- 2) Elaine seeks permission for the exhumation of the cremated remains of her father, Cyril Halstead Cawthron, from the Lawn Plot Row 28 no.6, in the churchyard of St Wilfrid's, with a view to re-interment in a grave, section M, row 4 no 24 in the churchyard.
- 3) The latter contains the remains of the petitioner's mother, Marion Cawthron, who died on 27th May 1956. Elaine must have been a child or in her early teens at that time. Subsequently, Cyril's parents' remains were buried in the same grave, Harry Cawthron dying in August 1961, and Nance in July 1969. Cyril died on 29th November 1992, some 36 years after Marion.
- 4) Cyril and Marion were married on 7th February 1941. They had one child, the petitioner.
- 5) Cyril made the arrangements for Marion's interment, through a firm of undertakers in Wigan. I presume he also arranged for his own parents to be buried in Marion's grave, or at least consented to their burial there.
- 6) On 14th March 1964, Cyril married again, to Joan. She already had a daughter, who thus became the petitioner's step-sister. I do not think I have her first name, but she is now Mrs M P Blundell, who lives at an address in Standish.
- 7) When Cyril died in November 1992, the petitioner tells me that the arrangements were made, as one would expect, by his second wife, Joan, along with the petitioner and Mrs Blundell. However she also tells me that Joan was seriously ill at that time, and she in fact died within a short time of her husband, on 25th March 1993. Her remains were interred next to Cyril's, with the assistance of the same undertakers, under the direction of the petitioner and Mrs Blundell.
- 8) Because Joan was terminally ill at the date of Cyril's death, she '*wished to leave the funeral arrangements to the undertaker*', and the petitioner and Mrs Blundell '*felt unable to approach her at that time to discuss where my father's ashes or her own should be interred*'. The first part of this is clear enough, although I doubt that the undertakers did any more than in any similar case, making the arrangements with the then parish priest, and

