

IN THE CONSISTORY COURT OF THE DIOCESE OF SOUTHWARK
IN THE MATTER OF STREATHAM PARK CEMETERY
AND IN THE MATTER OF A PETITION BY PHILIP GEORGE JULIEN WALKER

JUDGMENT

Introduction

1. In this judgment, I shall, after introducing them, generally refer to the relevant parties by their Christian names. This is for ease of understanding; I intend no discourtesy thereby.
2. This is a petition dated 24 December 2009 by Philip George Julien Walker for the exhumation of the remains of his father, James Walker (“James (II)”) and the remains of a stillborn child, Rosemary, from consecrated ground in Streatham Park Cemetery.
3. I should say at once that, after careful thought, I have come to the view on the papers that it is appropriate to grant the petition in respect of the remains of James (II). However, I would not, on the material now before me, be minded to grant permission for the exhumation of the remains of Rosemary.
4. I visited the Cemetery on 8 February 2010. Mr Philip Walker attended, together with Mr Peter Mitchell, who is assisting him in this matter. They were able to assist me in finding both the grave of James (II) and Rosemary (which is the subject of this petition), and also that of Rose (the wife of James (II)), which is nearby. Both graves are unmarked. (The circumstances in which this came to be the case will be explained below). Both Mr Walker and Mr Mitchell were able to assist me with various factual matters in the course of my visit, but this was obviously not an occasion on which I heard any submissions.

