

Neutral Citation Number: [2019] ECC Lei 5

IN THE CONSISTORY COURT OF LEICESTER

IN THE MATTER of TUR LANGTON and SHANGTON, CHURCH OF ST ANDREW

AND IN THE MATTER of a FACULTY FOR A CHURCHYARD MEMORIAL

CHANCELLOR BLACKETT-ORD

The Feast of St Francis of Assisi

4 October 2019

JUDGMENT

1. I have before me a Petition from Henry and Andrew Wadland who seek faculty permission authorising the erection of a memorial to their late wife and mother June Rose Wadland in the churchyard of St Andrew Tur Langton. They need this permission because the form of the memorial is not within the ambit of the churchyard regulations.
2. The proposed memorial was the subject of extensive debate at the PCC meeting held on Tuesday 6 August 2019, at the conclusion of which the PCC members present gave four votes in favour with one abstention.
3. The proposed memorial is unusual.

4. I quote from the Petition and from Andrew Wadland's supporting letter dated 18 August 2019:

"As the last farming family from the village to be buried in the churchyard we propose a small sheep lying down atop a plinth for the inscription, made of sand/limestone...".

5. The plinth is to be inscribed in memory of the deceased with the additional words "The Lord is my Shepherd".

6. I have been provided with a drawing.

7. I start from the position that the use of a sculpture of an animal as a memorial in a churchyard is so far outside the scope that is usually permitted that there must be a presumption against it.

8. In its favour are the following matters:

(a) The letter from Andrew Wadland to which I have referred shows that he and his father have given serious thought to their proposal. It is not a mere whim.

(b) Also the material to be used looks acceptable. To quote them:

"The material will be sand/limestone as recommended by the stonemason to be sufficiently hardwearing but not to stand out against the mix of slate, granite (rough and polished) sandstone and concrete monuments close by."

(c) It certainly commemorates the farming background of the family.

- (d) Stone animals are not unknown in this churchyard. To quote from the Petition again,

“In the immediate vicinity there are two large concrete lions, a limestone sarcophagus, an open book and a flat plinth”.

- (e) A sheep as symbolic of a Christian, enjoys the very highest authority.
9. I allow the Petition, save only that I am concerned that the material is indeed satisfactory. I therefore propose these conditions:
- (a) That details of the work are recorded in the log book, and
- (b) That the image is cut in unpolished stone.
10. If there is any doubt about the second of these conditions then the matter must be referred back to me.

Mark Blackett-Ord
Chancellor
4th October 2019