

IN THE CONSISTORY COURT OF LONDON

In re St Clement, East Cheap

Directions

1. St Clement, East Cheap is undergoing a major redevelopment requiring the reordering of the interior to add offices to the church interior with a kitchen and lavatories, all to be accessible to the disabled. St Clements is to remain as a church and is currently in an interregnum.
2. The reordering has required excavations within the churchyard that lies to an area I will call the East End of the church (none of the plans I was shown had a compass rose on).
3. On the 8th August 2013 during excavation works comprising a trench through the churchyard towards the South end of the church human remains were discovered. This was reported immediately and an investigation took place. The very helpful report is annexed to these directions. All work on the area has stopped, and the remains have been covered over.
4. I inspected the area this morning. May I thank those who assisted me for their careful and clear assistance. I am satisfied that the remains are human, they are disarticulated, extremely antique and, from their proximity to some early twentieth century drainage areas, appear to have been unlawfully shifted when those works took place. I am quite satisfied that there is no possibility of identifying whose remains they are and consequently there is no hope of contacting any descendants.
5. Whilst inspecting those remains and inquiring about a reverent place to remove them to prior to reinterment, I was informed that, shortly after these remains had been discovered, some other remains had been identified within the church. They were uncovered in an area which, it is intended, will be a ramp into a kitchen on what would normally be called the South Aisle (it is, for the avoidance of all doubt, on the right hand side of the altar as you enter the church from Clement lane). The ramp will replace steps that were originally there.
6. Were this a country church I would direct that the remains discovered in the churchyard should be reverently stored and then appropriately reinterred in an open area of the churchyard. That is, of course, impossible in this church where the churchyard has been closed for many decades.

7. Accordingly I direct that the remains discovered in the church yard be removed and stored reverently in the same container that the bones from within the church are now kept. The works within the church and churchyard may continue and any further remains, if unidentifiable, are to be kept in the same way.
8. I direct that, at a convenient time within the building project, all the remains discovered in the church and the churchyard are to be reinterred by the Area Dean as acting Priest in Charge in the same area within the church where human remains were discovered yesterday.
9. It is proposed that all the remains be stored within a cupboard within an office in the church. I am content with that suggestion and am reassured by the entirely appropriate and respectful reactions of the workers on site, that this will be a safe and reverent place for them. It is for the Area Dean as acting Priest in Charge to satisfy himself that the remains are being reverently stored and, if he has any concerns he is to contact the Registry.
10. If any clarification or further directions are needed I am happy to assist.
11. May the souls of the faithfully departed rest in more peace than their mortal remains have hitherto, and may they rise in glory.

9th August 2013

The Reverend and Worshipful Justin Gau,
Deputy Chancellor, Diocese of London.