

Directions of the Chancellor of the Diocese of Worcester

Petition For Erection of a memorial stone

Re: St Bartholomew, Areley Kings

UPON receipt of a petition from Jacqueline Nicola Greenway dated 5 July 2021 2021 setting out the form of the requested memorial;

AND UPON receipt of an undertaking dated 11 November 2021 by Fergus Wesson of Stoneletters Ltd only to erect a memorial in the terms of the above petition;

IT IS ORDERED:

1. For the reasons set out below, I order that a faculty shall pass the seal for the erection of a memorial to Alexandra Elizabeth Zoe Greenway solely in the form, size, material and inscription as set out in the petition of Jacqueline Nicola Greenway dated 5 July 2021, subject to the following conditions:
 - a. The surface of the memorial is natural stone with a non-reflective surface.
 - b. It is erected in the location described in the documents accompanying the petition, close to the sarcophagus caskets and away from the area with the more uniform horizontal memorials.
 - c. The lettering must be incised and no protrude from the surface.
 - d. In the event that any other human remains are disturbed in erecting the memorial in the proposed location they must be discretely and reverently reburied at the discretion of the minister as close as possible to their current location.

JUDGMENT

1. This petition for a fairly large (4ft high, 23.5 inch wide and 3 inch thick) upright memorial in fairly traditional form and made of light grey natural Portland / Aurisina stone comes before me because the policy in the churchyard is for only smaller, horizontal memorials to be permitted by the incumbent and anything varying from those designs must be considered by the Chancellor.

2. This petition is brought by Jacqueline Greenway, the mother of Alexandra Greenway whom the memorial is to commemorate. The petition is supported by the Rector the Rev'd Mark Turner and by a majority of the PCC. Alexandra very sadly died at the young age of 23. I understand that at the discretion of the incumbent her remains are to be buried in the churchyard, but not in the usual area used at present for such burials but rather in an area of the churchyard close to the home of Jacqueline Greenway, and overlooked by it. It is proposed that, in the usual way, the memorial will be erected over the burial place.
3. Near the location the memorial is proposed to be erected are two sarcophagus style tombs, together with various other memorials of differing styles, ages and styles. This is different to the area in the churchyard where most cremated remains are currently buried, in which area the memorials are considerably more uniform.
4. The intention is that the memorial will be visible from Jacqueline Greenway's home, and that this will be of comfort to her, following the premature death of her daughter in traumatic circumstances. A horizontal memorial would be far less visible.
5. In my judgment the pastoral reasons given are sufficient to justify permission being granted for the erection of the monument described, despite its lack of compliance with the parish policy. I have considered whether it would be out of keeping with other memorials, given the lack of such compliance. Whilst it would be out of keeping if erected in the location where ashes tend to be buried at present, where there are broadly uniform horizontal stones, in the location proposed for Alexandra's remains there is a large selection of monuments of much larger size and greater prominence, including several upright slabs, two sarcophagus style memorials mentioned above, a semi-recumbent cross, an open book and a truncated pyramid. The proposed memorial will not be out of keeping with these memorials. Further, whilst some of the existing memorials are in white or polished stone, most are in a natural pale grey stone, such that the stone proposed in this petition will harmonise.
6. There is nothing objectionable in the text proposed to be inscribed upon the monument, nor in the font proposed and I am informed that earlier work by the same stone mason is of high quality and at least one example of his work is in St Bartholomew's churchyard already. I am therefore content to grant a faculty in the terms of the petition.
7. It is, however, important to state that this decision is made on its own particular facts, and creates no precedent as to any other future application.

JACQUELINE HUMPHREYS
CHANCELLOR OF THE DIOCESE OF WORCESTER
13 March 2022