

***Re St. Mary Tetford* [2026] ECC Lin 2**

There was a petition to exhume the remains of Barbara Eugene Myers, who in February 2024 had been mistakenly buried in the grave of a Mr Freiston, instead of in the grave of her husband. The error arose because the churchyard plan was unclear and did not identify the relevant graves by name. The mistake was discovered when Mr Freiston's family sought to inter his widow's cremated remains. The Court applied the presumption, established in *Re Blagdon Cemetery*, that burial in consecrated ground is permanent, but recognised that special circumstances can justify exhumation. A simple administrative mistake resulting in burial in the wrong grave was expressly identified as such a circumstance. The Court also noted that Mrs Myers' reinterment in her husband's grave would promote family unity. A Faculty was therefore granted, requiring that the exhumation must be discreet, with appropriate screening, environmental-health notification, and same-day reinterment, and that the Parochial Church Council must bear the costs. The Chancellor also criticised the inadequate churchyard plan and required an accessible, accurate replacement in the church.