

Neutral Citation Number: [2019] ECC Lei 4

IN THE CONSISTORY COURT OF LEICESTER

IN THE MATTER of LUBENHAM, ALL SAINTS CHURCH

IN THE MATTER of a FACULTY FOR A WORLD WAR II MEMORIAL

CHANCELLOR BLACKETT-ORD

The Feast of St Peter and St Paul

29 June 2019

JUDGMENT

1. I am going to adjourn this application for further information for reasons that I shall give.
2. All Saints' is a well-kept and notable Grade I listed rural church. The church is "a delightfully unrestored building with a very complex history" dating to 1200 or earlier (Pevsner; Leicestershire and Rutland, p.297).
3. The application is for a memorial to those who died in World War II. The proposed form is simple: a marble slab inscribed with a list of the seven names, and the regiment (or naval warship) of each.
4. The proposal is that this memorial should be fitted on an internal wall below the existing World War I memorial.
5. It is intended that there should be preserved an existing candle-stand on which a single candle is currently kept, lighting a patch of wall where the World War II memorial is intended to go, underneath the World War I memorial.
6. Below the candle will be a lectern with a book of remembrance.

7. I am concerned about the details of the scheme.
8. The existing World War I memorial is a fine piece of work. It is of pale grey mottled marble, with a substantial carved frame in slightly darker marble.
9. The proposed World War II memorial is to be smaller, and although the drawing that I have been provided with suggests that it will have a frame, nothing about this is suggested in the quotation, which is for

“a piece of Carrara marble, approximately 600 x 400 x 200 mm with 391 letters...”.

But the drawing of the lettering seems to suggest some sort of frame, or line near its edge. The lettering itself is evidently to be similar to but slightly different from that in the World War I memorial.

10. My fear is that the proposed memorial will simply look mean in comparison with the World War I memorial. Perhaps I am wrong. But I have insufficient details to satisfy me.
11. I do not require the new memorial to be identical to the earlier memorial, and it can be in a quite different style, but I do not want it to look simply like a cheap version of the older memorial.
12. My next concern is about the candle. As I have mentioned, it stands on a ledge below the World War I memorial. Now it will stand immediately in front of the World War II memorial. A candle in such a position, when lit, may soon run a sooty mark up the new memorial; or so it would appear to me. If I am wrong, so be it; but if I am right, then the candle should be dispensed with, and the candle-stand perhaps dispensed with as well.
13. The candle also seems to me to be unfortunately positioned if there is below it a lectern with a book of remembrance. It will be too easy for hot wax or matchsticks or other dirt to land on an uncovered, open book.

14. The drawing suggests that the book is not in any sort of case but simply open to the air. It is unclear to me what its purpose is. Does it merely repeat the names on the War Memorials? In that case, I hardly see its purpose. If it is to contain the names of those who may have been (for instance) cremated and buried in the churchyard, then I see its point entirely, but it must be kept in better conditions than what is proposed here, and be labelled so its purpose is clear.
15. In my view the scheme requires rethinking. I know that the DAC has already expressed support for it but I would like revised proposals to be submitted to them.
16. In the meantime, I return the Petition to the Registrar and adjourn it.

Mark Blackett-Ord
Chancellor
29 June 2019