

Directions of the Chancellor of the Diocese of Worcester

Petition For Reservation of Grave Space

Re: St Kenelm, Romsley in the Parish of Halas

Judgment

The petitioner has sought an open-ended period of reservation 'until I die'. That is not workable for the church in the future, as the then minister and PCC will not necessarily know whether the petitioner remains alive, or has died and other arrangements for burial have been made. The church needs to know for certain for how long a space is to be kept reserved. 25 years is a long period and much can change in that time. I am told there are sufficient spaces left for the use of other parishioners for 25 years at the current rate of usage. I am not told for how much longer there will be sufficient space.

The family connections to St Kenelm, Romsley, which give good reason for me to grant the usual 25 year period, are not particularly exceptional so as to justify a longer period. Much may also change in the Petitioner's own life in 25 years. He is currently 45 and his wife Bethany for whom application is also made is 41. However, if in the future the petitioner wishes to continue to reserve this space, an application to extend the period can be made at that time.

Order

1. I order that a faculty shall pass the seal for the reservation for a period of 25 years of the burial plot measuring 8' by 4' identified in the petition for the exclusive right of burial of James Justin Whitehouse and Bethany Frances Whitehouse both of 2 Pearman Garden, Hagley, Stourbridge, Worcestershire DY9 0AL.
2. For that purpose, the plot shall be physically and discreetly marked on the ground in a manner to be approved by the Incumbent or Minister in charge and the Parochial Church Council.

JACQUELINE HUMPHREYS
Chancellor of the Diocese of Worcester
9 February 2022