

Neutral Citation Number: [2020] ECC Bri 2

In the Consistory Court of Bristol

In re Kingswood, Holy Trinity

JUDGMENT

1. This is a petition for the introduction of a memorial that falls outside the graveyard regulations.
2. The memorial is intended to be:

“a headstone with a matching granite cover slab. Material/colour and finish - unpolished.honed dark grey granite Dimensions - 3ft high x 7ft long x 3ft wide Details of the foundation work and fixings - 7ft x 3ft x 2ft concrete foundations Additional features - headstone, cover slab over centre Typeface, size and colour of lettering - Roman, 1inch + 3/4inch gold”
3. The petitioner, Mr Bailey, preys in aid the fact that the memorial will mark what is now a family grave as it contains the remains of his grandfather (who died in 1952), his grandmother (who died in 1969), his mother (who died in 1997) and his father (who died this year). There have always been, apparently, good reasons why a memorial could not be placed here. Broadly these involved a lack of funds available to members of the surviving family.
4. The petitioner has supplied photographs of the churchyard which include memorials that are very similar in style to the one petitioned for which were clearly introduced at a time when the Churchyard regulations were not drafted in the way they are currently. By expanding the photographs it is plain that some of these are family graves which have been used for interments relatively recently, certainly within a time when some of his family members died.
5. I note (and give no weight to) the fact that there are within the churchyard memorials that are not consistent with the churchyard regulations. I would be

grateful if the incumbent and the PCC would remind relatives of the requirements of the regulations.

6. Plainly those member of the petitioners family who were alive at the time of their relatives death would have expected to be able to have memorials that were consistent in style with family graves already in the churchyard.
7. In those circumstances, it seems to me only equitable in these very particular circumstances that I grant this petition as prayed. I do not think that the condition proposed by the DAC (that the lettering be silver rather than gold) is necessary in all the circumstances.

3rd April 2020

Justin Gau
Chancellor