

St. ANDREW , SEDBERGH in the Parish of SEDBERGH, CAUTLEY and GARSDALE

Judgment

1. This is a petition for a faculty to hang an ebony and ivory cross above the pulpit of St. Andrew's Church in Sedbergh, together with a small silver memorial plaque nearby. The cross in question was donated by Mrs. Diane Winn, in memory of Isobel and Edwin Lewis. At a meeting of the PCC of the combined parish of Sedbergh, Cautley and Garsdale on 30th November 2009 (at which 22 members out of 28 were present) the faculty application received 17 votes in its favour , with 4 votes against . There have since been no further objections from members of the congregation or indeed from anyone else . The DAC has since recommended approval.
2. Miss K. Mary Gladstone was one of the members of the PCC who voted against the faculty application. The grounds of her opposition are set out clearly in her initial letter dated 5th December 2009 , and also in her follow up letter dated 10th March 2010 , both of which I have read and considered and taken into account in reaching my decision.
3. Miss Gladstone's objections are on both doctrinal and aesthetic grounds, but she also raises a procedural point in the penultimate paragraph of her later letter. So far as the procedural point is concerned , Miss Gladstone stops short of suggesting that the PCC vote was actually invalid , and as no one else has raised this as an issue (as by suggesting that they would have voted differently had they seen the crucifix), I feel obliged to ignore this point.
4. In exercising my discretion in a matter such as this , I do not consider it appropriate for me to seek to resolve sensitive and difficult doctrinal issues , nor is it appropriate for me to apply my own subjective aesthetic judgment. I am bound to pay great attention to the informed views of the DAC , as well as have regard to the fact that the vast majority of PCC members voted in favour of having this new crucifix

hung in the prominent position intended , and there have been no objections from outside the PCC. I am thus drawn to the conclusion that Miss Gladstone's views , although perfectly valid , sincerely held and carefully reasoned and expressed , are minority views and that the will of the majority of those most closely involved with the church , supported by the collective wisdom and experience of the DAC must prevail. Accordingly I grant this faculty.

John LME

Chancellor of the Diocese

21 July 2010
