

Informal DAC advice: OFS 2023-081254, Mavesyn
Ridware, St Nicholas
To: Jeremy Brading , Rector

Dear Jeremy,

Thank you for your submitted faculty application for the proposed creation of a Garden of Remembrance within an unused area of the churchyard at Mavesyn Ridware, St Nicholas (Grade I).

The DAC carefully considered the proposal and the supporting documents, including the Statements of Significance and Needs. The Committee supported the principle of the proposal, and considered that the impact of the proposed works on the setting of the listed church building had been sufficiently identified and justified.

In relation to the development of the scheme, the DAC offered the following advice:

1. The Committee affirmed that, given the difficulties of utilising the unused land within the churchyard for full burials, the proposed creation of a Garden of Remembrance is a constructive use of the space. The DAC clergy member appointed from Diocesan Synod commended the parish for the care that had gone into this proposal.
2. However, it was commented that more information is required on the method of interment. It was queried whether the remains are to be placed directly into the ground, or if a container or casket is sought to be used. It is assumed that the marker is to cover the interment plot, in which case it will need to be removed for subsequent interments. The weight of the stone might prove a difficulty.
3. The markers seem to be rather tightly packed, with only 6 cm between each marker. The need for markers to be 45 cm x 45 cm was questioned; it should be possible to fit two inscriptions onto a stone 30 cm x 45 cm.
4. The Committee confirmed that it is a sensible precaution to set the markers below grass level for ease of maintenance, as proposed. However, the parish's preferred option of a desk-type memorial would cause problems in this respect, as the front and back of the memorial would be at different heights.

5. Further to which, the DAC noted that the existing Area for the Burial of Cremated Remains (ABCR), provided as an analogy in the submission, includes desk-type markers but is laid out on gravel rather than grass.
6. The Committee advised that the Garden of Remembrance should be on grass, and have flat markers accordingly. The parish's case of exceptionality for the proposed adoption of individual memorials, in relation to the requirements of the Chancellor's [Churchyard Regulations](#), should be revisited, specifically the current citing of precedent for desk-type markers within the existing churchyard.
7. The DAC Archaeology Adviser recommended that the parish should also provide a plan showing the location and extent of proposed Garden of Remembrance within the churchyard. It is noted, however, that it is located within a 20th-century extension to the historic churchyard.

It was determined that external formal consultation under the Faculty Jurisdiction (Amendment) Rules 2022 is not applicable. As such, the Committee indicated that the revised scheme, when further developed, should be resubmitted for formal DAC advice.

With best wishes,
[Diocesan Advisory Committee \(DAC\)](#)