

24th July 2023

Dear Giles

Ref **New Garden of Remembrance, Mavesyn Ridware (OFS: 2023-081254).**

Thank you for sending the PCC your informal letter of advice, concerning our recent proposal to located a new garden of Remembrance. Your email was dated 20th April 2023, and we apologise for not replying formally to your helpful advice until now. Inevitably this coincided with the AGM meetings, our PCC meeting held on the 12th July was the first opportunity that is had to consider your response.

We now list our responses to each of your points, and on the basis of this letter serving as update to the original faculty application - we would to take this matter further in the hope that the DAC is able to recommend what we have submitted to the Chancellor of Lichfield Diocese, for their authorisation.

* * * * *

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.

☞ The PCC welcomes this initial observation.

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.

• The PCC and I are not clear about the point being made here. We assume that the same point is being made, irrespective of cremated remains being placed directly into the ground or on occasion casket. In both situations, the stone marker will need to be moved. In response to this matter, the PCC agrees that a desktop marker, then poses a significant issue for future interments. However the PCC would also point out, that since it is the stonemason / grave digger who prepare the grave, the PCC is of the view that they will be best equipped to make any necessary preparations.

• Furthermore, we assume that the point being made in #6 in relation to the Churchyard Regulations, actually prohibits the PCC from using the Desktop markers. We only initially expressed desktop markers, because these are what have been installed along the old Garden of Remembrance. From this most recent DAC advice, we accept that the Regulations direction that only flat cremation slab markers are permitted. In the Rector's first hand experience, there should be no issue concerning lifting these flat markers for a future interment - especially if this is carried out by retrained professionals who have the necessary experience and equipment.

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.

• As we mention in the initial faculty application this 6cm dimension for separating the markers was suggested to the PCC by two separate Monumental Masons from the Lichfield area. However, we accept

[Revd Jeremy Brading](#)

[The Rectory, Savey Lane, Yoxall, Burton-on-Trent, Staffordshire DE13 8PD](#)

[T: 01543 472 565](tel:01543472565) [E: jeremybrading@gmail.com](mailto:jeremybrading@gmail.com)

the point that the DAC are making here concerns spacing the markers, and are happy to submit a proposal that envisages a much wider space. Please view the attached updated graveyard map, envisaged with smaller cremated remains markers and a wider separation between each marker.

- The Rector has experience of preparing Faculty applications in two previous dioceses, and in these the suggested maximum size of the the cremated remains slabs were along the lines of the recommended by the DAC. The larger size denoted here reflects existing custom in this churchyard, and indeed others in the area. However, given the need to manage the available space as efficiently as possible, we will now use this smaller 30cm x 45cm size. .

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. 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.

- As per earlier remarks under #2 and in relation to #6, we are of the view that that desktop markers will not be supported by the DAC.

5. 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.

- Whilst we are happy to pursue this application on the basis of specifying that only flat cremation markers will be used in the new Garden of Remembrance, the PCC is troubled by the Chancellors

Revd Jeremy Brading

The Rectory, Savey Lane, Yoxall, Burton-on-Trent, Staffordshire DE13 8PD

T: 01543 472 565 E: jeremybrading@gmail.com

insistence for a single 'community marker' being adopted for the whole Garden of Remembrance. We strongly question the pastoral sensitivity of this restriction. This is because we are of the view that that it represents a very significant departure from established practices.

In our formal application, we drew attention to the likely establishment of a secular cemetery. This secular cemetery - as the map indicates- will be located immediately beyond the southern and eastern boundaries of the churchyard. Given the particular 'L shape' of the proposed new cemetery, we envisage that those operating it will offer individual cremated remains places. These will be located just the other side of the perimeter wall located along the southern edge of the churchyard. The PCC is of the view that given the narrow six of this strip of land, it would be idea to accommodate a secular memorial garden for cremated remains (ie a secular version of the Garden of Remembrance). If this were to happen, such is the weight of custom across the benefice, that those wishing to inter their cremated loved ones cremated remains will simply use the secular memorial garden. The PCC is disturbed by this potential outcome, and is now concerned about the impact of this regulation on the reputation of the church in the local community. The PCC notes that this proposal for the Garden of Remembrance is for a space already within the existing churchyard, in which there are located numerous individual full graves or varying ages.

For these reasons, this PCC urgently requests that the Chancellor's office reviews these points in Chancellors Churchyard Regulations.

- 6. 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.**

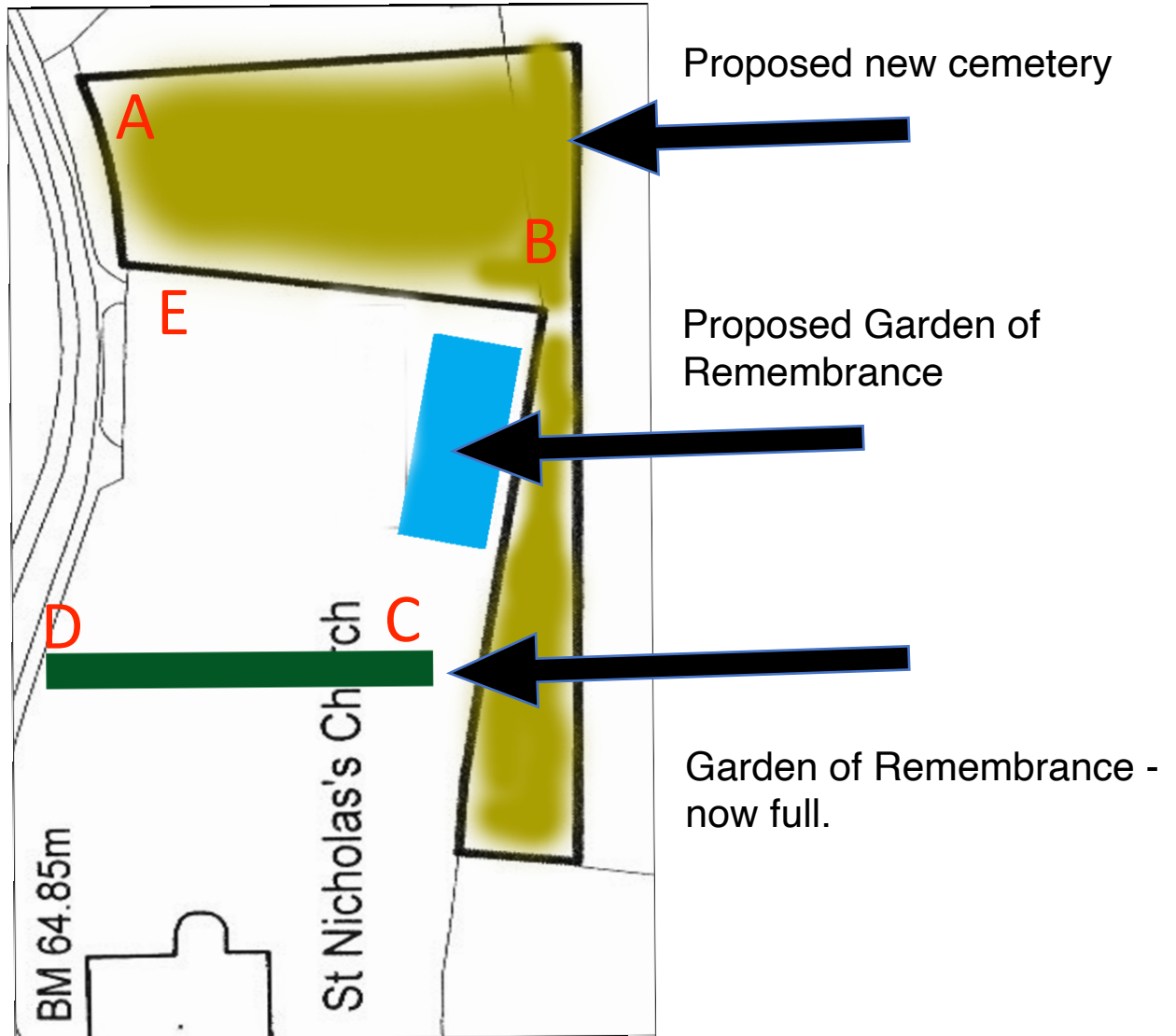
The includes below a map of the churchyard, showing both the Old Garden of Remembrance, the site of the proposed New Garden of

[Revd Jeremy Brading](#)

[The Rectory, Savey Lane, Yoxall, Burton-on-Trent, Staffordshire DE13 8PD](#)

[T: 01543 472 565](tel:01543472565) [E: jeremybrading@gmail.com](mailto:jeremybrading@gmail.com)

Remembrance. We also include pictures which demonstrate how close to the churchyard, will be any memorial garden located in a future adjacent secular memorial garden.



St Nicholas
Church

New Secular burial ground, photo taken from **point A**



Potential place for internment of Cremated remains in new Secular burial ground, photo taken from **point B**



The wooden structure to the right of the picture is located in the churchyard at **point E.**

Current Garden of Remembrance - now full **point D**



Revd Jeremy Brading

The Rectory, Savey Lane, Yoxall, Burton-on-Trent, Staffordshire DE13 8PD

T: 01543 472 565 E: jeremybrading@gmail.com

Current Garden of Remembrance - now full **point C**



Revd Jeremy Brading
The Rectory, Savey Lane, Yoxall, Burton-on-Trent, Staffordshire DE13 8PD
T: 01543 472 565 E: jeremybrading@gmail.com