

DIocese OF SOUTHWARK

SIGNAGE TO WAR GRAVES

The centenary of the First World War has renewed interest in that conflict and marked the start of an ambitious project by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission which will seek to ensure that the location of all war graves within churchyards and cemeteries in the United Kingdom has appropriate signage. There are apparently as many as 12,500 locations to be marked, including numbers of churchyards in every diocese of the Diocese of England.

This is a project which everyone will wish well. It is also evidently a major undertaking. The CWGC were anxious to avoid, if possible, having to make a faculty application in respect of each location which was subject to the faculty jurisdiction. To address this problem, the Ecclesiastical Judges' Association (a body of which all Diocesan Chancellors are members) has suggested that Chancellors give a direction as follows:

No faculty will be required for the installation of Commonwealth War Graves Commission signs at parish churches, churchyards and consecrated burial grounds in the Diocese providing that the following conditions are met:

- 1. The installation of the sign has been the subject of an affirmative PCC resolution;*
- 2. The sign is of a standard design as shown in the Annex hereto or adapted to the requirements of a particular location on the advice of the DAC;*
- 3. The dimensions and location of the sign have the consent of the Archdeacon who may seek the advice of a DAC assessor as circumstances require.*

The sign is in a CWGC standard format, on a green background, and made of aluminium.

It measures 430 mm by 230 mm. Because it is less than 0.3 square metres in area it does not require advertisement consent.

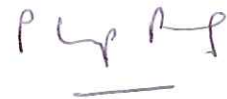
It is generally affixed to a churchyard fence, wall or gate.

The thinking behind the direction was that, first of all, the standard sign was likely to be appropriate for use at most of the churchyards and consecrated burial grounds where it was proposed to put up a sign. Second, it was thought that in most locations it would prove possible for the people "on the ground", namely representatives of the parish and the archdeacon to be able to agree with the CWGC an appropriate location for the standard sign. No sign would be put up without the express approval of the PCC and Archdeacon.

Obviously there might be particular locations where this might not be appropriate and as regards these there might be scope for a smaller sign or a sign on a different coloured background. Nonetheless the direction obviously proceeds on the basis that the standard sign is generally satisfactory; and it simply is not practical for the CWGC to design a unique sign for an individual churchyard. The possibility must be faced that there may be some churchyards where a satisfactory solution cannot be found and that in those cases there would not be a sign. It is possible in these circumstances that an appropriate notice might be put in the porch of the church or even on the noticeboard of the civil parish, but obviously this does not achieve all that an external notice on a churchyard wall or similar would achieve.

Having consulted with the DAC and the Registrar, I am today making an order under section 18C of the Care and Churches and Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction Measure 1991 that the installation of signs as set out above shall not require a faculty.

I am confident that with common sense the arrangements that are thus being put in place will work well. If there are issues in any particular case, I can expect that the parish or the Archdeacon will raise them. In a case of doubt it is always possible to ask the advice of the DAC.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P L Petchey', with a horizontal line underneath.

PHILIP PETCHEY

Chancellor

17 January 2018



CWGC
Commonwealth War Graves Commission

At this location there are

Commonwealth War Graves

www.cwgc.org

