

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.

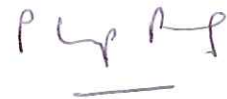
It is generally affixed to a churchyard fence, wall or gate.

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



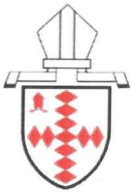
CWGC
Commonwealth War Graves Commission

At this location there are

Commonwealth War Graves

www.cwgc.org





The Diocese of
Southwark

**Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC)
for the Care of Churches**

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Rebecca Bayram
Ecclesiastical Signs Project Administrator
Commonwealth War Graves Commission

BY EMAIL ONLY

7th February 2018

Dear Rebecca

COMMONWEALTH WAR GRAVES COMMISSION - CHURCHYARD SIGNAGE

Thank you for your email of Monday 29th January, regarding the two sizes of sign available. I sought the advice of the DAC at its Committee meeting on Tuesday 6th February and I now write with the DAC's feedback.

You attached a picture of both sizes of sign for comparison purposes, and confirmed to me:

- the dimensions of the standard sign are 430mm x 230mm but that a smaller-size sign is available;
- the standard dimensions of the smaller-size sign are 210mm x 150mm; and
- the CWGC wished to offer churches the choice between the two sizes.

A copy of the photograph showing an example of each sign is appended to this letter.

Under the Chancellor's Order dated 17th January 2018, the dimensions and location of the sign must have the consent of the Archdeacon, and the design must be the standard one (or adapted to the requirements of a particular location on the advice of the DAC).

At yesterday's meeting, the DAC offered the following advice:

Subject to conditions 1 and 3 of the Chancellor's Order (i.e. that the consents of the PCC and Archdeacon are obtained), the Committee supports the use of the 210mm x 150mm sign in cases where it is deemed more appropriate than the 430mm x 230mm sign.

Reasons for this may include:

- *whether the church building or other buildings/structures in the vicinity (e.g. historic tombstones) are listed;*
- *the method of fixing, height, and position of the proposed signage;*
- *other signage in the vicinity of the location of the proposed CWGC signage.*

I trust this is satisfactory, but please contact me if I can assist further.

Yours sincerely

Luke Tatam
Assistant Secretary to the DAC

APPENDIX

