

IN THE CONSISTORY COURT OF THE DIOCESE OF LINCOLN

Directions: Public Notice and Covid-19

1. With the current government direction to stay at home and with the closure of places of worship, it is impracticable to comply with the conditions for public notice under the Faculty Jurisdiction Rules 2015. This direction will be effective from 26th March 2020 until further notice.
2. The Court will not require the display of public notice to be carried out under Part 6, nor the lodging of a certificate of public notice under r 6.5.
3. However the Court will expect petitioners to identify in writing the steps they have taken to bring the matter to the attention of parishioners generally as well as churchgoers using social media, websites etc and including details of works and a contact email address at the registry together with a date by which objections should be made (being no less than 28 days from the start of the notification). The nature and extent of alternative forms of notice will depend on the circumstances of the case, and how controversial the proposals are likely to be.
4. In respect of applications for a faculty to reserve a gravespace, the Court will expect a public notice to be displayed on the outside of the church. Publication on church WhatsApp or similar parish social media will constitute sufficient notice inside a church.
5. The Court will seek where possible to deal with all petitions, particularly those which are uncontroversial either by dispensing with public notice under r 6.7(2), or by disregarding the non-compliance under r 20.2.
6. Where it seems to the Court that the interests of justice require that further notice should be given, case-specific directions will be given

The Revd HHJ Mark Bishop
Chancellor
26 March 2020