

**Neutral Citation Number: [2025] ECC Lin 3**

**IN THE CONSISTORY COURT AT LINCOLN**

In the matter of St Mary and St Nicholas, Wrangle

And the Petition for permission to inter the cremated remains of Norman Edwin Gostelow in a grave space for bodily remains

Judgment

1. This is a Petition by the churchwarden and coastal cluster administrator responsible for applications concerning the churchyard at St Mary and St Nicholas, Wrangle. The third Petitioner is Ms Judy Bell, daughter of Norman Edwin Gostelow, deceased. The Petition seeks a Faculty to permit a grave space which would otherwise be used to receive bodily remains, to receive instead the cremated remains of Mr Gostelow. The purpose of this is so that a full-sized memorial stone can be erected over the grave space similar to the headstone for another family member: the proposed memorial would conform with the Churchyard Regulations in honed black granite with incised light grey enamel.
2. There is a Garden of Remembrance close by, but the family wish their father's ashes to be interred in a full-sized grave so that the larger memorial stone can be placed over it, rather than a smaller ashes memorial in the cremated remains area.
3. The PCC has supported this application.
4. I regret that I cannot grant this Faculty. The reason is that we must make efficient use of the land which the churchyard has for burials. If we use the grave spaces that are for bodily remains for the interment of ashes, then there will be a reduced number of available grave spaces for those who wish to have a burial. It would be unfair if we ran out of grave spaces for full burials because they had been taken up with cremated remains interments, when there was a Garden of Remembrance available for those interments. It would also not be an economic use of the space that has been set aside for burials. This means that cremated remains must be interred in the Garden of Remembrance.
5. I am surprised to read that the space identified could not receive a body for a full burial as there would appear to be space. In any event there is always the need, sadly, for smaller burial spaces. In any event, I cannot permit a grave space in the churchyard set aside for burials to be used for the interment of ashes for the reasons explained.
6. I recognise that this will be a disappointing decision to the family, but I hope that they understand the reasons that must mean I cannot set a precedent for the application they make.
7. I waive my fee.

Revd HH Judge Mark Bishop  
Chancellor  
16 August 2025