



DIOCESE OF ST. EDMUNDSBURY AND IPSWICH

### **MEMORIALS IN CHURCHES**

Placing a plaque or tablet in church is not a right but a special privilege reserved for exceptional cases. A faculty is always necessary and before it is granted, evidence will be required that the person to be commemorated has rendered outstanding service to the church and/or the community as a whole. Even then a faculty does not follow as a matter of course and, among other considerations, the diocesan chancellor will bear in mind:-

- a) the character of the church
- b) the design of the proposed memorial
- c) whether the proposed wording will say something to future generations
- d) the availability of suitable wall space
- e) the advice of the Diocesan Advisory Committee

Sometimes the chancellor may appear unduly strict but it is his duty to protect the interests of future generations. If faculties are freely granted in every case, the walls of a church may over the years become crowded with tablets to the detriment of that church's appearance. If you feel that you have an appropriate case, then before you go to the expense of a faculty application and a detailed drawing of the memorial, please send me your proposal, including any information on the points mentioned above. I will then place the matter before the chancellor for a preliminary opinion.

Sometimes another method of commemoration is more appropriate than a plaque or tablet, e.g., a memorial window, panelling, a pew, candlesticks etc. These will also require a faculty.

For further guidance on the faculty procedure, application forms, details of fees etc, please contact my assistant Angela Long on 01473 406300, e-mail, [angie-long@birketts.co.uk](mailto:angie-long@birketts.co.uk), or me.

James Hall  
Diocesan Registrar  
01473 406270  
[james-hall@birketts.co.uk](mailto:james-hall@birketts.co.uk)