**Re Hemphill**
Church of Ireland Disciplinary Tribunal, 16 October 2013
*Conduct unbecoming*

In the context of a parish within which there was great division, the Tribunal found that the incumbent had, after a vestry meeting, removed papers from and belonging to the vestry secretary and refused to return them. Although the Tribunal accepted that an unseemly tussle had occurred involving the incumbent and a number of members of the vestry committee, further allegations of assault and causing fear and alarm were not made out on the balance of probabilities. The Tribunal expressed regret that the complaints committee had drawn the terms of the complaint too narrowly, such that it was not possible for the Bishop of Down and Dromore to give evidence concerning the subject matter of the complaint. The incumbent was deprived of his office for a period of one year, with a 25% reduction in salary. He was permitted to remain in the rectory for this period. [RA]

doi:10.1017/S0956618X14000301

**Re St Mary the Virgin, Stansted**
Rochester Consistory Court: Gallagher Ch, 17 October 2013
*Exhumation – medical reasons*

The petitioners applied for the exhumation of the remains of their son/brother, Steven, with a view to their reburial near their new home in Somerset. Steven had been killed at the age of 19 years by a dangerous driver on the road on which the churchyard lay. The chancellor received medical evidence from a psychologist, who confirmed that Steven's mother and brother had suffered post traumatic stress disorder after the accident. She confirmed that they continued and would continue to suffer profound emotional difficulties as they had been unable to visit Steven's grave, as in order to do so they needed to pass the place where they had last seen him alive, and feared encountering the family of the driver who had killed Steven. This involved a real risk of re-trauma. The psychologist concluded that their mental health would significantly and swiftly improve if Steven's remains could be moved. The chancellor considered the *Blagdon* guidelines and considered that the medical evidence showed that an exception to the norm of permanence had been made out. The faculty was granted. [RA]

doi:10.1017/S0956618X14000313

https://doi.org/10.1017/S0956618X14000301 Published online by Cambridge University Press