the laying flat of unsafe memorials, such faculty being subject to conditions, including:

i. The testing of memorials by hand or by a topple tester or similar device;
ii. A publicity campaign prior to any such testing, such campaign to include the placing of notices at the cemetery at least six weeks prior to the date of the notice;
iii. Prior to such testing, written notice being given to the person listed in the cemetery record as responsible for the maintenance of the relevant memorial;
iv. The temporary securing of any memorial found to be unsafe through the use of a stake or similar;
v. Upon such temporary securing of a memorial, written notice being given to the person identified under iii. above requiring the making safe of the memorial within four months of the date of the notice;
vi. In the absence of a response to the notice referred to at v. above, or in the event that there is no person identified under iii. above, the further display of public notices adjoining the memorial and on LCC's website; and
vii. In the absence of any response to v. and vi. Above, LCC may lay flat the memorial or leave the stake in place pending implementation of an improvement plan.

In imposing these conditions the court had regard to the Final Report of a Special Scrutiny Committee set up by Stockport Council in December 2003 and the Special Report on Memorial Safety in Cemeteries published by the Local Government Ombudsman and the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales in March 2006. [RA]

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Re St John, Broadbridge Heath
(Chichester Consistory Court: Hill Ch, November 2006)
Crucifix – removal

The chancellor granted a faculty for the relocation of a crucifix from the outside of an unlisted church to the Horsham museum and the replacement of that crucifix with a plain cross. In so granting the faculty, the chancellor had regard to the witness and mission of the church and to the parish's desire to communicate

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a theme of hope rather than despair. The DAC had not recommended the proposal, although the archdeacon had given it his support, as did the CCC. [RA]

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Re Holy Trinity Church, Idle
(Bradford Consistory Court: Walford Ch, December 2006)
Telecommunications installations

The chancellor granted a faculty for the installation of telecommunications equipment in the church, despite objections raising concerns about the risk to the health and wellbeing of those living locally. The chancellor reviewed the scientific evidence, including the most recent World Health Organization fact sheet dated May 2006, and concluded that there was no compelling evidence of a real, as opposed to fanciful, risk to health. [RA]

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