



DIOCESE OF CHELMSFORD

ETHICALLY SOURCED AND PROCESSED STONE FOR MEMORIALS

In 2017, the Diocesan Environment Group questioned the inclusion of grey granite amongst the types of stone that are permitted for memorials in this Diocese. The Group noted that grey granite is not always ethically sourced and processed, and cited serious concerns about the working conditions and treatment of workers (including children) in a number of mines and processing sites. At my invitation, the Group's concerns were considered by the Diocesan Advisory Committee, which provided advice to me. The Committee unanimously supported the removal of grey granite from the list of permitted stone types contained in the Diocesan Churchyard Handbook (which comprise the Churchyard Regulations for this Diocese).

The Churchyard Regulations were subsequently amended in December 2017 and grey granite was no longer a stone type which could be authorised by an Incumbent, under the authority delegated by the Chancellor to them, on a Form CR1. (This was not a blanket ban on grey granite: it remained open to a petitioner who wished to introduce a memorial in grey granite to petition for a Faculty, providing confirmation that the stone was ethically sourced and processed. A number of such petitions were lodged and indeed Faculties granted.)

Following a number of subsequent representations, the matter has been considered again. The Diocesan Advisory Committee discussed the position at its meeting in March 2018 and offered some observations. I subsequently directed that there should be consultation with stonemasons known to the Diocesan Advisory Committee to be working in the Diocese. In the latter part of June, I received the responses to the consultations from the Diocesan Advisory Committee, together with a formal representation from the President of the National Association of Memorial Masons.

Having considered all of the submissions I have received, I HEREBY DIRECT as follows:-

1. Stone (not limited to grey granite) which is not ethically sourced and processed is not permitted for use for memorials in the Diocese.
2. The stonemason or other supplier of a memorial must certify in writing that the relevant stone has been ethically sourced and processed. This is a requirement for all applications for memorials, whether by way of Form CR1 or a petition for Faculty.
3. Any stonemason or other supplier of a memorial who had, as at 22nd December 2017, an existing stock of grey granite which is not known to have been ethically sourced and processed, has up to 12 months from the date of this direction to use up their stock. Where such stone is being used, the stonemason or supplier of the memorial should include with Form CR1 or the petition for Faculty written confirmation that they are using up their existing stock of grey granite.

The Worshipful George Pulman QC
Chancellor

2nd August 2018

Date