

CASE NOTES

EDITED BY RUTH ARLOW

Barrister, Deputy Chancellor of the Dioceses of Chichester and Norwich

AND WILL ADAM

Rector of Girton, Ely Diocesan Ecumenical Officer

Re St Barnabas, Shore

Manchester Consistory Court: Tattersall Ch, September 2009

Pipe organ – replacement with electronic – funding

The petitioner sought a faculty for the removal of the church's Conacher pipe organ and its replacement with an electronic organ. The DAC and CBC objected to the proposal on the basis that the existing organ was 'a fine organ and a good example of Conacher's work', that inadequate efforts had been made to obtain funding for the refurbishment of the existing organ and that the proposed organ was excessive for the needs of the building. The petitioner and PCC rejected the chancellor's suggestion that further efforts were made to obtain funding for the refurbishment of the existing organ from named bodies, raising concerns about the ongoing maintenance cost of the existing organ and indicating that funds had already been raised for the purchase of the electronic organ. The PCC suggested that the existing organ could be preserved in storage pending a future decision about its future. The petition was refused on the basis that efforts to retain the existing organ had not been exhausted; and the fact that funds had already been raised for a replacement was not a good reason to grant the petition. [RA]

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Re St Oswald, Walcott

Lincoln Consistory Court: Bishop Ch, September 2009

Sale of bible – good and sufficient reason

The vicar and churchwardens sought a faculty for the sale of a 1611 bible which had long-standing links with parish. The bible had been kept in the church, was in poor condition and was deteriorating. It was proposed that if it were not sold the bible should be kept in the cathedral library where it could be preserved. The petitioners wished to apply half the proceeds of sale to the repair and replacement of lead lights in the church and half to facilitate the mission of God in the parish