

## DIOCESE OF YORK

### MEMORIALS INSIDE CHURCHES

1. Such memorials are subject to special provisions. No memorial may be erected in a church without a faculty and such faculties should be 'sparingly conceded'. The form of petition for this purpose, together with a list of additional questions and current fees, may be obtained from the Diocesan Registry.
2. An application for a memorial monument or plaque inside a church should demonstrate that the person in whose memory the memorial is being introduced was a person of distinction who made a contribution to the nation, region, county or locality which is, and is likely to continue to be in years to come, of unique exceptional or historic interest. *In Re St Margaret, Earthem* [1981] 1 W.L.R. 1129, the Court of Arches held that the word "exceptionality" meant "The character of, or outstanding service to church, country or mankind by the person to be commemorated".
3. A memorial monument or plaque inside a church (as with a memorial stone on a grave in the churchyard) remains the property and responsibility of the heirs at law and does not pass to the incumbent, or parochial church council.
4. A memorial to a lay person will not be allowed in the sanctuary of a church and is unlikely to be allowed in the chancel. Caution is exercised about allowing wall memorials or plaques in any part of the church because of the tendency for such memorials to proliferate. As a result a memorial to a lay person is usually allowed only if that person has given outstanding service to the church or the nation.