

IN THE CONSISTORY COURT OF THE DIOCESE OF WORCESTER

ORDER MADE 21 August 2024

**ADDITIONAL MATTERS ORDER PURSUANT TO PARAGRAPH 3.4 OF THE FACULTY
JURISDICTION RULES IN RELATION TO
THE PLANTING OF PLANTS IN CHURCHYARDS**

**ADDITIONAL MATTERS ORDER PURSUANT TO PARAGRAPH 3.4 OF THE FACULTY
JURISDICTION RULES**

1. From 22 August 2024 until further order the following shall be permitted without a full faculty being obtained provided that the conditions in section 2 is complied with:
 - a. The creation of new plant beds dug into the surface of the churchyard;
 - b. The installation of raised plant beds above the surface of the churchyard;
 - c. The planting, maintenance and removal of non-food bulbs, grasses, or native wildflowers anywhere in a churchyard

2. The conditions applying to paragraph 1 are:
 - a. No graves, grave markers or memorials shall be disturbed.
 - b. No plant bed dug into the surface of the graveyard is located in any area where there are known burials of any age or known items of archaeological significance.
 - c. No raised plant beds are located in any area where burials are known to have taken place within the previous 150 years.
 - d. No plants used for food shall be planted in any area including in raised beds, where there are known burials of any age or where human remains of any age have been discovered and reburied.
 - e. No trees shall be planted, lopped, felled or otherwise save in accordance with List A or List B.
 - f. If any human remains are unexpectedly discovered they must be reverently and discretely stored within the curtilage of the church and reverently and discretely reburied under the direction of the minister as soon as practicable, unless the duty to report such remains to the Coroner arises (for example recent remains discovered in an unexpected location) in which case the Coroner must be notified and his/her directions complied with.
 - g. In the event any item of archaeological interest is unexpectedly discovered no further digging in the location in which such item was discovered shall take place and the matter shall be referred to this court for directions.

- h. In the event the Archdeacon is concerned about the installation of any new plant beds, or the planting of any plants within the churchyard he or she may direct at any time that work ceases until the matter has been referred to this court, and the any such direction must be complied with.
3. This additional matters order shall apply to the whole of the Diocese of Worcester.
4. These orders shall remain in force until the further order of this court.
5. For the avoidance of doubt, proposals outside these conditions may be permitted via a faculty application if justified in the circumstances of any particular case.

THE WORSHIPFUL JACQUELINE HUMPHREYS
CHANCELLOR OF WORCESTER
21 August 2024