

**DIOCESE OF ST ALBANS
CHANCELLOR'S GUIDANCE TO ALL PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCILS
IN THE DIOCESE
QUICK RESPONSE (QR) CODES AND GRAVESTONES**

1. There have been recent expressions of interest in the marking of memorials and gravestones in churchyards with QR (Quick Response) Codes apparently in order that information about the deceased may be obtained from the internet web site to which the QR code (once scanned by an appropriate smart phone or tablet) will direct the user.
2. There are recognised advantages and disadvantages of permitting such a system. The web site in question may be perfectly reputable, well maintained, up-dated and relevant but it could also be poorly sourced, contain inaccurate and potentially defamatory information. Other appropriate and relevant sources, not restricted to the particular QR web site, may also be readily found via the use of internet search engines, such as Google.
3. These matters are not covered by the current Churchyard Regulations applicable throughout the Diocese.
4. For all these (and other) reasons, I wish to make clear that no QR code may be attached to, embossed, engraved, marked or otherwise part of a Memorial or grave or head stone in any churchyard or grounds to which the faculty jurisdiction concerning such matters extends without a faculty from the Consistory Court.
5. Advice on obtaining a faculty may be obtained from the Pastoral and Advisory Secretary, Mrs Emma Critchley (Tel: 01727 818138) or from the Diocesan Registrar, Mr Lee Coley, LLB, LLM (Tel: 0207 222 5381).

Roger Kaye, Ch
Feast of All Saints
1 November 2012