



MEMORIAL BOARDS TO PREVIOUS INCUMBENTS

Many parishes like to have a board recording the names of their previous incumbents. Sometimes, and with a little historical research, the list can take us back many hundreds of years.

First, the point should be made that all memorials in a church will require faculty approval and petitioners should consult the Chancellor's Regulations. The DAC is always more than happy to recommend appropriate artists or craftsmen to carry out such a memorial and informally to advise on designs and locations prior to any formal application to them.

The following points should be noted:

- ❖ It should be placed where it can be seen and read, and where it will be in sympathy with other features in the church.
- ❖ The parish should consult its inspecting architect who will be pleased to advise on location and choice of material and can give advice on the choice of artists and craftsmen.
- ❖ Care and research will be necessary to ensure that the historical record it contains is as accurate and complete as possible. Care should also be taken to ensure that the information does not raise more questions than it answers. For example, changes in parish benefices should be noted, and the list of names should indicate – even by gaps – if records have been lost or are incomplete. Where lists are complete after a given date, this information would add interest to the memorial. It is important that where degrees or styles are added to some names, they are not omitted from others. Often greater clarity is achieved by their omission. Where suspension of presentation has led to the appointment of priests-in-charge, it may be helpful to head the board 'Ministers' which expression embraces both incumbents and priests-in-charge.
- ❖ Where the board is a memorial gift, the person commemorated should be named, in which case the full name and dates should be included with, preferably, some information on the person's work or association with the church.
- ❖ As well as being an interesting historical statement it should be a worthwhile addition to the church. On occasions a compromise may have to be reached between a detailed historical record and a design that is attractive to the eye.
- ❖ Space should be allowed for further names to be added as incumbents change. The calligraphy should therefore be capable of reproduction by a subsequent artist.
- ❖ Finally, petitioners are reminded to consult the general guidance notes about the information necessary to support new applications to the DAC.