

**1. War Memorials Bill 2015 –
Third Reading approved as amended**

The Lord Bishop to move:

That the War Memorials Bill 2015 be read a third time and do pass.

The President: We proceed this morning, Hon. Members, with the Third Reading of the War Memorials Bill.

I call on the Lord Bishop to take the Third Reading.

The Lord Bishop: Thank you, Madam President.

Given the smooth progress this Bill has made through its journey in this Council, it would be fair to say that everything has been said; therefore it would be superfluous for me to reiterate its provisions at Third Reading.

I understand that a Member is to propose an amendment, which I give notice that I will be happy to accept.

I beg to move.

The President: The Hon. Member, Mr Henderson.

Mr Henderson: Gura mie eu, Eaghtyrane. I beg to second and reserve my remarks.

The President: The Hon. Member, Mr Corkish.

Mr Corkish: Thank you, Madam President.

I wish to move an amendment, as I indicated at the Second Reading of this Bill.

I was just concerned that, should a church or building where a memorial lies become unused or demolished, what should happen to the memorial or who, in fact, owns them?

I am content that my concerns regarding, particularly the removal aspect, of clause 8 has been addressed and I am grateful for the considerations given. However, I have been asked by the mover of the Bill, Mr Watterson, to just further clarify that it is not the intention of any part of the Bill to include destruction in relation to relocation or removal.

So, with that, Madam President, I beg to move the amendment standing in my name.

On page 10, for lines 6 and 7 substitute:

‘(2) In this section “maintenance” includes alteration, extension, inscription, protection, relocation, renewal or repair.’

The President: The Hon. Member, Mr Crookall.

Mr Crookall: Thank you, Madam President. I beg to second.

The President: The Hon. Member, Mr Turner.

Mr Turner: Thank you, Madam President.

Members who were here when Mr Lowey was here will know that he was quite a stickler for saying that our job is to ensure the legislation leaves here without any grey areas and that the legislation actually says what it means and that, regardless of what the legal experts can argue over, he says the man in the street should be able to pick the legislation up and understand it.

Given that we had such a discussion over this particular clause at the clauses stage, I think this amendment clearly does enable this to be a lot clearer leaving here and should the situation arise where a building is being demolished or whatever, then it does make it quite clear that relocation is quite possible.

So it is a sensible amendment. I think it is worth us putting on the record as to why we are finishing the job off here and dotting the i's and crossing the t's. So I am happy to support the amendment and think it is a sensible one.

The President: The Lord Bishop to reply.

The Lord Bishop: Thank you, Madam President –

The President: Sorry, we will deal with the amendment first. Does anyone else wish to speak to the amendment? No. Right, would you like to reply to the Third Reading, sir.

The Lord Bishop: Thank you, Madam President.

I am very grateful to Mr Corkish and his seconder for proposing the amendment; and I agree with the Hon. Member, Mr Turner, that this does assist in the interpretation of the Bill. I want to thank my seconder, Mr Henderson, and colleagues of the Council for supporting the Bill at this stage.

As formal religious observance has declined, alternative forms of observance often arise to take its place and commentators have noticed that the greater the distance from violent conflict, the more inclined humanity can be sometimes to dwell on it.

Those who have endured and survived vicious treatment in prisoner of war camps in the Far East or who, as civilians, endured the blitz during the Second World War are, and have been, among those who shudder as they remember.

Glorifying the past is the very opposite of the intention of this Bill to preserve war memorials, for these memorials speak of regret, of loss of humankind's greatest gift, life itself, of the enduring virtues of peace and justice.

As we read the names on these memorials, we should indeed shudder at the extent and depth of pain inflicted by war, and take to heart the truth that these men and women, our brothers and sisters, were willing to lose their greatest gift in order to establish the ultimate values of justice and peace.

In the apocryphal book Ecclesiastes the poet praises famous people who have left a memorial, and then adds a most important point:

And some there be who have no memorial;
who are perished, as though they had never been...
Their bodies are buried in peace;
But their name liveth for evermore.

I beg to move.

The President: Hon. Members, before we vote on the Third Reading, we have an amendment to clause 8, proposed by the Hon. Member, Mr Corkish. I take it all Hon. Members have the copy of that amendment.

I put first the amendment to you. Those in favour of the amendment, please say aye; against, no. The ayes have it. The ayes have it.

I put to you the clause as amended. Those in favour, please say aye; against, no. The ayes have it. The ayes have it.

I now put to you the proposal that the Bill be read at third time and do pass. Those in favour, please say aye; against, no. The ayes have it. The ayes have it. The Bill is read a third time.