Re Holy Trinity, Eccleshall
Lichfield Consistory Court: Coates Ch, November 2009
Re-ordering – nave altar – raised dais

The petitioners sought a faculty to introduce a raised dais at the east end of the nave, with disabled access to the raised area. The plan required the removal of some pews. A faculty had been granted several years earlier to permit the introduction of a nave altar, which would be re-sited on the proposed dais. Applying the *Bishopsgate* questions the chancellor found that the petitioners had discharged the burden of proof as to the necessity of a new dais. Following a 'fact gathering' visit to the church, he found that the size of the proposed dais was excessive and would have a detrimental effect on the character of the building. The petition was refused. [WA]

An appeal is pending in this matter.

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Grainger plc and others v Nicholson
Employment Appeal Tribunal: Burton J, November 2009
Discrimination – philosophical belief – climate change

The judge, sitting alone, upheld the decision of the Employment Tribunal that a philosophical belief (in this case in the real danger of climate change) not based on religious belief was capable of protection under the Employment Equality (Religion or Belief) Regulations 2003, SI 2003/1660. He held that in establishing a claim based on such a belief the believer should provide evidence as to the genuineness of his or her beliefs and be subject to cross-examination. [WA]

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Greater Manchester Police Authority v Power
Employment Appeal Tribunal: HHJ Clark, November 2009
Discrimination – religious or philosophical belief – spiritualism

Mr Power, a spiritualist, was dismissed from his employment with Greater Manchester Police Authority as a trainer of special constables on the grounds, amongst other things, of 'his current work in the psychic field'. He complained that the authority had discriminated against him on the grounds of his religious or philosophical belief. The Authority appealed against the decision of the