

RESTRICTED**STATEMENT****Number: S415**

Number Of Pages	[3]
Age	[OVER 18]
Statement Date	[24/MAR/2006]
Signed Name	[Margaret Sherwin]
Date Of Birth	[Code A]
Occupation	[RETIRED PRIEST]
Forename 1	[MARGARET MIRIAM]
Surname	[SHERWIN]

I am Margaret SHERWIN. In 1999 I was the Curate for St James Church, Emsworth and St Thomas-à-Beckett, Warblington in Hampshire./L1200

It was through my position that I met Betty/N344 /S419 and Michael PACKMAN./N346

Betty was a regular churchgoer and a very active member of the parish. It was during a period when Betty was experiencing problems with her daughter Vicky/N731 /S418 that I began to visit her regularly at her home. I would go and have coffee with her and we would chat.

I met Michael whilst visiting Betty, he was always very hospitable to me. I cannot recall if he was working during these visits but I would only see him when I visited the house.

He used to run a music club. I think it was called something like "The University of the Fourth Age".

I don't think that Michael was in very good health, he was a very overweight man and very cumbersome when he moved around.

I have been asked if I can remember when Michael went into hospital shortly before he died.

I do remember this because I visited him on more than one occasion whilst he was in the Gosport War Memorial Hospital in Gosport, /L42 and I gave him his last rites and I conducted his funeral after he died.

Betty was diagnosed with cancer and was admitted to the Queen Alexandra Hospital/L194 for an operation at the same time Michael was taken into hospital.

I went to visit him whilst he was in the Gosport War Memorial Hospital. He was in a bed in a side ward on his own. He was sat up and able to chat. I was a Chaplain at the Rowans Hospice and I am quite used to sitting with terminally ill people who are nearing death. I didn't think at any time during this visit that Michael was dying.

I visited Michael a couple of days later. I called in because Betty was in hospital having just had a major operation and I was going to visit her. I wanted to give her an update on Michael.

I remember that I visited sometime around 10am (1000). I checked with the staff at the nurses station as a matter of courtesy as I was visiting out of hours. I was told that Michael had taken a turn for the worse and that they didn't think he had much longer to live.

I asked if I could anoint him and then I gave him his last rites.

I sat with him and talked to him until he died.

He was unconscious and showed signs of being in extremis. By that I mean that his breathing was shallow and intermittent. I sat with him for between one and two hours and when he died the nurses came in. I didn't have to go and find anyone to tell them that he had died.

I then left him to go to the Queen Alexandra Hospital to tell Betty that Michael had died.

I was surprised that he had died. I didn't think that he was dying when I first visited him and I wasn't expecting him to die when I called in to see him that day.

Margaret Sherwin

Statement taken:

Code A