

Holy Trinity Graveyard – notes to help you locate a monumental inscription.

Holy Trinity Church has an extensive graveyard. This has been added to on several occasions. The original burial ground was around the church, except to the north. The yard was extended in 1819, 1840, 1875, and 1913.

From the 1960s the then vicar, the Revd. Donald Brown and his wife Iris, began tidying the graveyard. Some gravestones were moved to form a flat area to the south of the church and others used to make a path to the lower field (now the school). When the car park was made in the 1980s, more grave stones were moved to form the flat area adjacent to the tower.

For some time now a group of volunteers has been checking the monumental inscriptions (MI) back to the Blackburn transcription, making amendments where necessary, and adding inscriptions which were either missed off or erected since Blackburn visited in the 1920s. We have been greatly assisted by the graveyard volunteers from Holy Trinity who keep the yard tidy. In recent times, teams from Community Payback have actively sought hidden monuments and felled trees and shrubs and dug them out for us*. We really appreciate their efforts.

The Burial Registers rarely made reference to grave numbers and there is no plan of the old parts of the yard. There is however, a modern plan, made to show the position of **surviving monuments**. We have used this plan in our project. The plan starts to number rows from the wall at the east of the yard parallel to the entrance to the school. This is row 01. Within each row each monument has been given a number starting to the north (Park House Road) with 01. Gravestones which were moved and re-laid to form paths, we have numbered in row 32.

(Note: when grave numbers are given in the Registers they refer to plot numbers. Our reference system refers to visible monuments. The two references are completely different.)

The inscriptions given are what actually appears on the stone – including what we would think are spelling mistakes. A series of dots indicates unreadable parts. Underlined words are no longer clear, but the wording given was noted in the past.

To help you find a monument we have made a simple map [here](#) which shows the position of monument 01 in each row. This is a very approximate position and the rows are not always straight. We have also given the [main name](#) on monument 01 in each row and we hope this gives you an indication of where to look for a particular MI. Those with a reference 32 have been shown on the plan individually.

Some graves have an upright monument as well as a flat stone. We have used a U after the reference for upright and an F for flat. Graves with inscriptions on a curb stone are not indicated separately, so look carefully for these in case grass is now obscuring them.

In the tables the first column headed GR No refers to the reference we have allocated to each grave stone as described above. The second column IM No refers to the image number on the Gravestone Photos website (See below**)

When our project was completed we realised that we had not found 202 monuments which had been listed by Arthur Blackburn when he visited the yard in the late 1920s. Some of these may have been wooden markers which have since rotted, but we suspect that the majority of them were flat stones which have since become covered in soil and are now under grass. These Blackburn inscriptions are marked NF in the column at the extreme right. Be aware that we found that Blackburn made many transcription errors, especially with dates and age numbers, so be cautious in using information from inscriptions not found.

If we have not found the inscription, we tried to identify from the different registers used which part of the yard these graves might have been in. We have indicated either ABD, C or E. Where it was impossible to

be sure there is a ? See the main Burials page for the diagram of the yard, to see where these sections are located.

Mrs Constance Myers in her History of the church written c 1955 lists the gravestones which were moved in 1883 when the chancel was enlarged. The bodies were re-interred but she does not say where. The gravestones were relocated against the east wall but moved again when paths were made from gravestones in the 1960s. We have indicated the affected monuments in the notes column by the words "Moved in 1883 because of chancel alterations".

When the car park was added in the 1980s a Notice appeared the Telegraph and Argus alerting grave owners to this and the fact that some graves would be under the new car park. Many of the names listed correspond to gravestones which ended up laid flat as part of the paths. Other stones still seem to be in place. Perhaps the shape of the car park changed, and the gravestones did not have to be moved? We are not sure. All gravestones mentioned in the Telegraph and Argus have the words Legal Notice in the Notes column.

We have included in this list

- All the inscriptions we have been able to find in all parts of the yard.
- Inscriptions Arthur Blackburn noted in the late 1920s which can no longer be located.
- Memorial tablets inside the church.
- Memorial windows inside the church.
- Gravestones removed from the floor of the church to the inside of the Belfry Porch.
- A gravestone still forming part of the church floor, but no longer accessible.

Many of our volunteers have assisted with this project over the years, but it could not have been completed without the outstanding efforts of Linda Paul and Janice Haley who hunted down every last monument and noted its details. Thank you!

**Most of the monuments in the graveyard (except those in section E) and those newly discovered* have been photographed by Phil Barraclough and can be found on

<http://www.gravestonephotos.com/public/cemetery.php?cemetery=3088&scrwidth=1600>

The site gives an index to names on each monument but not a full transcription. If you are unable to visit the yard, the above site will provide a photograph for you. We are extremely grateful to Phil for this work which complements our own.