

THE NEW CHURCHYARD 1893

When one walks around the outside of the Church, it is difficult to imagine from the visible signs on the surface, that several thousand parishioners have been buried there. Indeed, in the period from 1740 to 1890 alone, more than 2,200 people were interred in the immediate vicinity of the Church and burials had been taking place there for several centuries before then.

At a meeting of the Vestry on 26th March 1883, "the question of the desirability of selecting a site as a Burial Ground for the parish, was considered and deferred, to obtain more information regarding steps to be taken". For the best part of ten years, the matter was regularly raised at Vestry meetings and a decision deferred, whilst the old Churchyard became fuller and fuller.

Eventually the nettle was grasped and it was resolved to provide a new Burial Ground, raising the necessary money by Voluntary Subscription. Mrs. Marianna MOGG (widow of John George MOGG) of Farrington Manor House was approached and agreed to sell the parish half an acre of land, which hitherto had been let to James COX of Rosewell Farm. The ground was levelled, sown with grass seed, trees planted, paths laid and the area fenced. The total cost amounted to approximately £220. Mrs. MOGG provided a lych gate at her own expense.

By the time the new Churchyard was ready, subscriptions had provided all but £50 of the cost. The published subscription list was headed by Col. Barton Land SCOBELL of Kingwell Hall £30, Mrs. MOGG £20, the Earl of WARWICK £10, Rev. A.M. FOSTER (vicar) £8 and contained the names of some 140 parishioners, who subscribed amounts from 6d upwards.

A service was held at the Church on Friday 19th May 1893 and the new Churchyard was then consecrated by the Rt. Rev. Bishop BROMBY, Commissary for the Bishop of Bath and Wells.

Exactly one week later, Fanny BROWN of Hallatrow, age 52, one of the Plymouth Brethren, had the doubtful distinction of being the first person to be buried in the new Churchyard. From then on, the only people to be buried in the old Churchyard were those who already had family graves there.

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