

WALPOLE OLD CHAPEL

Burial Ground Survey

2021

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Report, Inscriptions and Photographs

WALPOLE OLD CHAPEL

Survey of the Burial Ground, 2021

PURPOSE AND BACKGROUND OF THE SURVEY

The survey was undertaken during April and May 2021 by Alison Peet and Victor Gray as a preliminary to the 'Discovery' Project, a community history initiative designed to explore the history of the former Congregational Chapel and its place in the life of the area.

The purpose of the survey was to record the inscriptions on each of the gravestones in the burial ground to the south and east of the Chapel. This initial aim was extended to include a photographic record and to record the condition of the gravestones.

A previous record of the headstone inscriptions had been made in 1997 and the survival of that document enabled a comparison to be made between what was legible in that year and what was now to be seen almost a quarter of a century later, in 2021. This comparison highlighted a number of problems which need to be addressed.

For the future, this 2021 record may provide as useful a point of comparison in twenty years as has the 1997 survey.

In the meantime, it is proposed in due course to add the survey with its photographs to the Chapel website as part of the 'Discovery' project, during which it may be possible for the biographies of some of those recorded in the burial ground to be researched. A copy of the survey and photographs will be added to the Chapel archive.

THE GRAVESTONES

48 graves and gravestones are known to survive in the burial ground, commemorating 67 individuals. The earliest date from 1841. Why burials commenced at this date is as yet unclear but may be clarified during the course of the forthcoming 'Discovery' Project. The majority (34 or 71%) are 19th-century in date. The remainder (14 graves) are later, with the latest headstone (for Linda Holmes), dating from 2015.

ISSUES RAISED BY THE SURVEY

In 1997 46 graves were recorded. Since that date a further two headstones have been added, but of the 48 graves

recorded in the 2021 listing, three have been completely buried under vegetation and one is gradually being buried. The inscriptions are therefore unrecordable in 2021.

These last are extreme cases of the advance of plant growth within the burial ground and the effect this has on the graves. Over and above the erosion of incised inscriptions by weathering over time, a considerable number of headstones have now been rendered virtually illegible by the growth of lichens on the stone surface. In many other cases, the lower lines of inscriptions at the foot of headstones have been virtually buried by the growth of plant and grass roots and the resulting slow raising of the ground level. In a few cases, shrubs have been allowed to grow close to the surface of graves, making it difficult to read inscriptions but, more significantly, probably allowing vigorous root systems to become entangled with the stonework below ground level.

In the case of the three graves which have now been completely covered by vegetation, it is difficult to know how much of the inscriptions would be decipherable were they to be cleared.

RECOMMENDATIONS

There is clearly some incompatibility between the objectives of, on the one hand, allowing the burial ground to develop naturally as an unadulterated site for wild plant growth and,

on the other, respecting the graves of those buried and/or commemorated in it.

It would seem at least desirable to remove those shrubs which threaten the stonework of graves and routinely to cut back by an inch or two the roots and leaves of grass from the face of those where inscriptions are being obscured.

In a few cases it would seem to be desirable to push back the ravages of time. In particular, the four 'buried' graves (Numbers 23, 41, 42 and 45) might be cleared of vegetation. In the case of No. 45, this was a vertical headstone which has fallen completely and now lies partially buried under plant growth. This might well be restored to the vertical.

Over time, a number of the headstones have begun to lean either forwards or backwards. In a way this adds to the atmosphere and the 'aesthetic' of the burial ground and intervention would seem unnecessary but in three cases (Nos. 9, 28 and 43) there is some risk of these stones toppling completely and it might be considered wise to intervene before this happens.



A leaning headstone, in danger of collapse (No. 9)



The effects of lichen growth (No. 10)



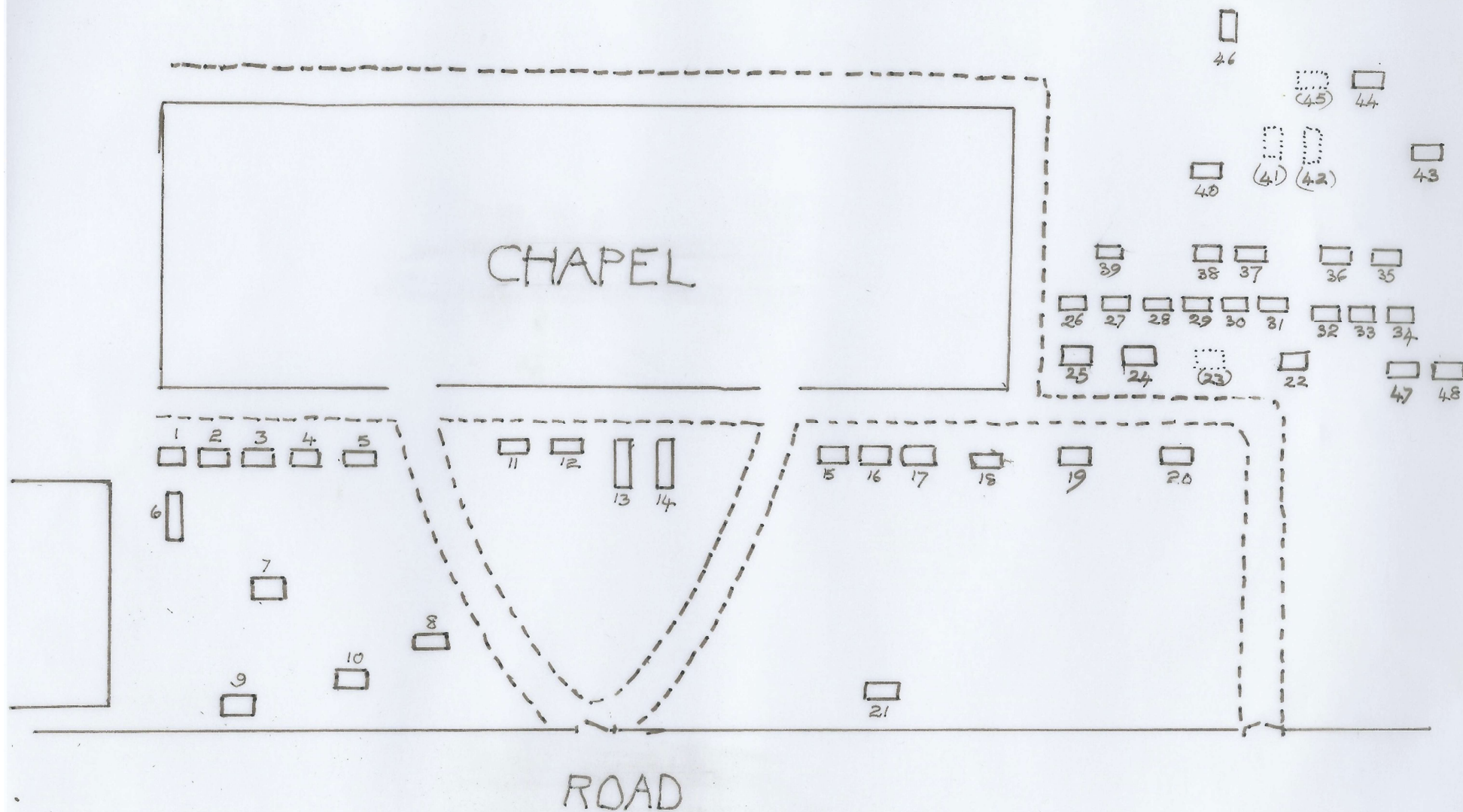
Shrub growth obscuring and threatening a table tombstone (No. 6)



A collapsed headstone being 'swallowed' by grass (No. 45)

PLAN OF WALPOLE OLD CHAPEL BURIAL GROUND

(Not to Scale)



WALPOLE OLD CHAPEL GRAVESTONE SURVEY, 2021

Record of Inscriptions

Sections of text recorded in italics and within square brackets are now (2021) largely or wholly illegible and the text is taken from readings made in 1997

NO. ON PLAN	TYPE	FULL INSCRIPTION	NAMES	DATE(S)	CONDITION
1	Headstone	In MEMORY OF ELIZABETH WIFE OF WILLIAM MOORE JUNR WHO DIED JAN. 3RD 1852 AGED 61 YEARS	Elizabeth Moore	1852	
2	Headstone	In Memory Of WILLIAM MOORE OF PEASENHALL WHO DIED <i>[MARCH 31ST]</i> 1878 AGED 85 YEARS <i>[Blessed are the dead which died in the Lord]</i>	William Moore	1878	Affected by lichen but still legible. Plant growing close to surface

3	Two-sided Headstone	<p>(Front face)</p> <p>In Memory of SARAH WIFE OF WILLIAM MOORE WHO DIED FEBRY 25 1841 AGED 40 YEARS</p> <p><i>[And of our fellowship below, In Jesus be so sweet, What heights of rapture shall we know When round the throne we meet]</i></p> <p>(Reverse face)</p> <p>In MEMORY OF WILLIAM MOORE WHO DIED FEBY 12 1852 AGED 20 YEARS</p>	Sarah Moore William Moore	1841 1852	Bottom lines of verse partially obscured by grass
4	Headstone	<p>(Largely unreadable in 2021)</p> <p><i>[In</i> <i>MEMORY OF</i> <i>HANNAH</i> <i>WIFE OF</i> <i>WILLM. WESTGATE</i> <i>WHO DIED MAY 25TH</i></p>		<i>[1850]</i> <i>[1860]</i>	Partially illegible due to lichen growth. Shrub growing close to front of headstone

		<p>1850 AGED 83 YEARS ALSO OF WILLM. WESTGATE WHO DIED JANRY. 28TH 1860 AGED 81 YEARS]</p>			
5	Two-sided Headstone	<p>(Front face) In MEMORY OF SUSANNAH MOORE WHO DIED SEPTR 23RD 1851 AGED 23 YEARS</p> <p>(Reverse face) In MEMORY OF SAMUEL MOORE WHO DIED FEBY 8TH 1854 AGED 18 YEARS</p>	<p>Susannah Moore</p> <p>Samuel Moore</p>	<p>1851</p> <p>[1854]</p>	Shrubs growing up in front of and behind stone
6	Table tomb	<p>(On the northern face) The Revd JOSEPH WILLIAM MAYHEW FOR 28 YEARS PASTOR OF THE CHURCH ASSEMBLING IN THIS PLACE</p>	<p>Reverend Joseph William Mayhew</p>	1850	Plant growth needs cutting back

		<p>DIED 13 JANUARY 1850 AGED [54 YEARS]</p> <p>(The southern face is now unreadable due to substantial plant growth)</p> <p>[SARA ANN WIFE OF THE REV. J.W. MAYHEW DIED JULY 30 1841 AGED 37 YEARS]</p>	Sara Ann Mayhew	[1841]	
7	Headstone with Footstone: 'E.B. 1848'	<p>IN MEMORY OF EMMA DAUGHTER OF [SAML. FELLA] & SUSANNAH BLAXILL DIED JANUARY 1ST 1848 AGED 5 MONTHS</p>	Emma Blaxill	1848	
8	Headstone with Footstone	<p>In Loving Memory of JOHN DRIVER OF WOODBRIDGE WHO DIED IN THE LORD OCTR 17TH 1878 AGED 63 YEARS ALSO OF ELIZABETH HIS WIFE WHO DIED MAY 28TH 1861 AGED 37</p>	John Driver Elizabeth Driver	1878 1861	Footstone has now fallen flat and been buried

		<p>THEY HAVE REACHED THE JOYS OF HEAVEN</p> <p>THEY HAVE JOINED THE SAINTED BAND</p> <p>FOR THEIR HEADS A CROWN OF GOLD IS GIVEN</p> <p>AND A [<i>HARP IS</i>] IN THEIR HANDS</p>			
9	Headstone	<p>In MEMORY OF WILLIAM MOORE SEN WHO DIED APRIL 7 1852 AGED 89 YEARS (originally carved as 87 Years but then over-incised)</p>	William Moore	1852	Leaning badly. Should be reset closer to upright.
10	Headstone	<p>(Largely unreadable in 2021)</p> <p><i>[IN MEMORY OF ELIZABETH DAUGHTER OF JOHN & ELIZTH DRIVER WHO DIED 1 SEPT. 1859 AGED 15 YEARS]</i></p>		<i>[1859]</i>	Badly affected by lichen. Footstone, reading E.D., recorded in 1997, has disappeared.

11	Headstone	<p>IN MEMORY OF JOHN GOODWIN SON OF SARAH AND JOHN GOODWIN WHO DIED FEBY 26TH [1849] AGED 25 YEARS</p> <p><i>[Stop traveller as you pass by, As you are today so once was I As I am now so must you be Therefore prepare to follow me]</i></p>	John Goodwin	[1849]	Lower lines of inscription now illegible. The stone is flaking badly at its foot and the inscription very faint.
12	Headstone with Footstone	<p>IN MEMORY OF SARAH DAUGHTER OF JOHN AND SARAH GOODWIN WHO DIED JANY 1ST 1842 AGED 22 YEARS (originally carved as 21 but then over- incised)</p> <p><i>[All you that look upon this stone Think how quickly I was gone Death does not always warning give Therefore be careful how you live]</i></p> <p>With Footstone, no longer legible <i>[S.G.1842']</i></p>	Sarah Goodwin	1842	Lower lines of text no longer legible. Some flaking at the foot of the stone.
13	Coffin Tomb	<p>SACRED TO THE</p>	Betsy Goodwin	1846	Shrubby growth between this and No. 14

		<p>MEMORY OF BETSY GOODWIN WIDOW WHO DIED JAN 27TH 1846 IN THE 78TH YEAR OF HER AGE Blessed are the dead Which died in the Lord</p>			
14	Coffin Tomb	<p>(Largely illegible) <i>[IN MEMORY OF JOHN GOODWIN WHO DIED THE 1857 AGED 67 YEARS ALSO TO THE SACRED MEMORY OF SARAH THE BELOVED WIFE OF JOHN GOODWIN NOV. 11 1879 AGED 62 YEARS]</i></p>	John Goodwin	<p><i>[1857]</i> <i>[1879]</i></p>	<p>Largely illegible because of lichen growth. Shrubby growth between this and No. 13</p>
15	Headstone	<p>IN MEMORY OF HANNAH THE BELOVED DAUGHTER OF WILLIAM & ANN ELIZABETH STOFER WHO DIED DECR 26TH 1844 AGED 4 YEARS AND 6 MONTHS</p>	Hannah Stofer	1844	<p>Lower lines are largely obscured by rise in ground level. Grass should be cut away from the foot of the stone.</p>

		But Jesus said suffer little children and forbid them not to come unto me <i>[For that is the Kingdom of heaven]</i>			
16	Headstone with Footstone	SACRED TO THE MEMORY OF ELIZABETH THE WIFE OF THOMAS MORSE WHO DIED JULY 20 TH 1858 AGED 86 YEARS	Elizabeth Morse	1844	Footstone largely buried. 1997 survey says: 'E.M.')
17	Headstone with Footstone	SACRED TO THE MEMORY OF THOMAS MORSE LATE OF THIS PARISH and formerly of Cookley WHO DIED MAY 9 TH 1849 AGED 89 YEARS Footstone 'T.M.'	Thomas Morse	1849	
18	Headstone with Footstone	SACRED TO THE MEMORY OF JOHN MORSE OF THIS PARISH SON OF THOMAS & ELIZ. MORSE WHO DIED UNMARRIED	John Morse	1883	Lichen beginning to affect legibility.

		SEPT. 16 TH 1883 AGED 86 YEARS			
19	Headstone with Footstone	(Largely illegible) <i>[In Memory of Rebecca The beloved wife of Daniel Morse Who died May 23rd 1876 Aged 70 years Also of the above named Daniel Morse Who died 4th 1878]</i> Footstone 'R 1876 ME'	Rebecca Morse Daniel More	<i>[1876]</i> <i>[1878]</i>	Inscription badly affected by extensive lichen growth
20	Headstone With Footstone	IN MEMORY OF ROBERT MOORE WHO DIED FEBY 28 TH 1862 AGED 87 YEARS ALSO OF SARAH, HIS WIFE WHO DIED JAN. 15 TH 1868 AGED 92 YEARS	Robert Moore	1868	
21	Double Headstone	SACRED TO THE MEMORY OF	Elizabeth Burrows	<i>[1868]</i>	

	with Double Footstone	<p>(left-hand side) ELIZTH. WIFE OF JAMES BURROWS WHO DIED <i>[APRIL 8TH 1868 AGED 99 YEARS]</i></p> <p>(Right-hand side) JAMES BURROWS WHO DIED <i>[May 2]</i> 1847 AGED 78 YEARS</p> <p><i>[also their granddaughter who died Decr. 21st 1867 aged 28 years They died in Peace]</i></p>	James Burrows	1847 <i>[1867]</i>	
22	Headstone with Footstone	<p>IN LOVING MEMORY OF JOHN BALLS DIED NOV. 22nd 1911 AGED 80 YEARS ALSO JOHN W.C. BALLS ONLY CHILD OF EMMA BALLS DIED Dec 24 1908 AGED 26 YEARS Interred in Norwich Cemetery</p>	John Balls John W.C. Balls	1911 1908	

23		(A stone recorded in 1997 as 'Unmarked raised grave with metal mesh flower holder' has completely disappeared)			There is now no trace of this burial site
24	Half-size Headstone	ALMA G. DALE 1854-1930	Alma Dale	1930	
25	Headstone with Footstone	In Memory of CATHERINE CELIA DAUGHTER OF (largely illegible below this point) <i>[WILL & MARY ANN BACON who died April 12th 1853 aged 10 years]</i> Footstone: <i>['CCB 1853']</i>	Catherine Bacon	<i>[1853]</i>	Lower lines of inscription obscured by grass and rising ground level. Grass should be cut away from the foot of the stone. Footstone now largely buried
26	Headstone with Footstone	IN LOVING MEMORY OF EDWARD THIRD SON OF JOSEPH AND MARY MAYHEW OF BECCLES BORN 13 th APRIL 1858 DIED 24 th FEBRUARY 1904 HE LAID HIS HAND UPON HIM AND HEALED HIM	Edward Mayhew	1904	Some flaking of the outer layer of stone at the foot of the headstone

		Footstone 'EM 1904'			
27	Headstone with Footstone	<p>IN LOVING MEMORY OF FREDERICK WILLIAM DEARLY BELOVED HUSBAND OF MARIA PAYNE SUDDENLY CALLED HOME FEB 23rd 1927 AGED 60 YEARS IN THE MIDST OF LIFE WE ARE IN DEATH ALSO OF MARIA PAYNE DIED NOV. 6th 1945 AGED 81 YEARS</p> <p>Footstone: 'FWP 1927'</p>	<p>Frederick William Payne</p> <p>Maria Payne</p>	<p>1927</p> <p>1945</p>	Significant flaking of the outer layer of stone at the foot of the headstone
28	Headstone in form of a cross with Footstone	<p>IN LOVING MEMORY OF FREDDIE THE DEARLY LOVED AND ONLY CHILD OF FREDERICK WILLIAM AND MARIA PAYNE WHO FELL ASLEEP IN JESUS [OCT] 27th 1897 AGED 13 YEARS THE LORD HATH NEED OF HIM</p>	Freddie Payne	1897	Badly leaning; needs restanding. Cross has at some stage become detached and been reattached

		Footstone: A cross			
29	Double Headstone with Footstone	<p>IN MEMORY OF WILLM STOFER MANY YEARS A RESIDENT IN THIS PARISH WHO DIED SEPT. 29TH 1869 AGED 76 YEARS The Gift of God is <i>[eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord]</i></p> <p>ANN ELIZTH FOR MANY YEARS WIFE OF THE LATE WILLM. STOFER DIED MARCH 14th 1882 AGED 86 YEARS (Inscription below illegible) <i>[Mine is an unchanging love Holier than the heights above Deeper than the depths beneath Free and faithful strong as death]</i></p> <p>Double Footstone 'W.S. 1869 A.E.S. 1882'</p>	<p>William Stofer</p> <p>Ann Elizabeth Stofer</p>	<p>1869</p> <p>1882</p>	

30	Headstone with Footstone	<p>IN MEMORY OF SAMUEL STOFER MANY YEARS DEACON OF THE CHURCH ASSEMBLING IN THIS PLACE WHO DIED JUNE 25TH 1856 AGED 67 YEARS</p> <p>Footstone 'SS' <i>[1856' now buried]</i></p>	Samuel Stofer	1856	Developing lichen growth
31	Headstone with Footstone	<p>In Memory of MARY STOFER WHO DIED MARCH 6TH 1855 AGED 64 YEARS</p> <p>Footstone 'MS' <i>['1855', now buried]</i></p>	Mary Stofer	1855	
32	Headstone with Footstone	<p>(Now indecipherable) <i>[SACRED TO THE MEMORY OF MARY LETITIA FELLA WHO DEPARTED THIS LIFE AUGUST 21ST 1853</i></p>	Mary Fella	<i>[1853]</i>	Inscription rendered largely illegible by growth of lichen

		<p><i>Remains of text indecipherable in 1997]</i></p> <p>Footstone now indecipherable [<i>'M.E.F. 1853'</i>]</p>			
33	Headstone with Footstone	<p>IN MEMORY OF ABIGAIL THE BELOVED WIFE OF TIMOTHY SPARROW WHO DEPARTED THIS LIFE ON THE 11th DAY OF NOV. 1862 AGED 68 YEARS Those (indecipherable) who now in Jesus sleep (indecipherable) shall keep (a further two lines indecipherable)</p> <p>Footstone 'AS'</p>	Abigail Sparrow	1862	
34	Headstone with Footstone	<p>(Now largely indecipherable) <i>[Sacred To the Memory of]</i> SAMUEL WRIGHT <i>[Who died March 27 1864]</i> AGED 75 YEARS</p>	<p>Samuel Wright</p> <p>Ann Wright</p>	<p><i>[1864]</i></p> <p><i>[1863]</i></p>	Developing lichen growth

		<p><i>[Also] ANN [his beloved wife who died July 22 1863] AGED 79 YEARS</i></p> <p>Footstone 'SR 1864'</p>			
35	Headstone with Footstone	<p>IN LOVING MEMORY OF GEORGE METHUEN PARKER THE KIND AND SYMPATHIC EVANGELIST OF THIS DISTRICT WHO WAS CALLED HOME FEBY 18th 1885 IN THE 44th YEAR OF HIS AGE HIS WORKS DO FOLLOW HIM</p> <p>Footstone 'GMP'</p>	George Methuen Parker	1885	
36	Headstone with Footstone	<p>IN LOVING MEMORY OF MARY ANN CALVER (OF RUMBURGH) WHO DIED NOVEMBER 7th 1889 AGED 72 YEARS THOUGH LOST TO SIGHT TO MEMORY DEAR</p>	Mary Ann Calver	1889	Shrub growing close to the headstone.

		Footstone 'MAC 1889'			
37	Headstone with Footstone	<p>IN LOVING MEMORY OF ELIZABETH THE WIFE OF JOHN BUCK (OF COOKLEY) WHO DIED MARCH 18th 1897 AGED 63 YEARS BE YE ALSO READY</p> <p>Footstone 'EB'</p>	Elizabeth Buck	1897	
38	Headstone with Footstone	<p>IN LOVING MEMORY OF JOHN BUCK WHO DIED AT COOKLEY MARCH 24th 1899 AGED 61 YEARS SUDDEN DEATH SUDDEN GLORY</p> <p>Footstone 'JB 1899'</p>	John Buck	1899	
39	Headstone	<p>IN LOVING MEMORY OF LUCY BELOVED WIFE OF WILLIAM HOWELL</p>	<p>Lucy Howell</p> <p>William Howell</p>	<p>1915</p> <p>1917</p>	

		<p>WHO DIED JULY 15th 1915 AGED 73 YEARS UNTIL WE MEET AGAIN ALSO WILLIAM HOWELL BELOVED HUSBAND OF THE ABOVE WHO DIED SEPT 8th 1917 AGED 71 YEARS REUNITED</p>			
40	Headstone with Footstone	<p>IN LOVING MEMORY OF ISABELLA KATE THE DEARLY BELOVED WIFE OF WALTER SAUNDERS WHO DIED JUNE 6th 1911 AGED 58 YEARS (Text below now illegible and peeling) <i>[Yet again we hope to meet thee When the day of life has fled]</i></p> <p>Footstone: <i>[‘I K S 1911’]</i></p>	Isabella Kate Saunders	1911	Significant flaking of the outer layer of stone at the foot of the headstone. Footstone partially buried
41	Kerb Grave	<p>(This grave has been completely buried under vegetation) <i>[To the memory of COLIN SAUNDERS died Aug 19 1934]</i></p>			Grave buried under vegetation
42	Kerb Grave	<p>(This grave has been completely buried under vegetation)</p>		<i>[1899]</i>	Grave buried under vegetation

		<p><i>[West side: In Loving Memory of JESSIE M WEBB South side: who died Oct 29 1899 East side: She helped others in the way of life North side: aged 26 years]</i></p>			
43	Headstone shaped as a cross, with Footstone	<p>TO THE DEAR MEMORY OF MARY ANN WEBB WHO DIED MAY 18th 1909 AGED 69 YEARS "SHE HATH DONE WHAT SHE COULD" ALSO OF WILLIAM WEBB SUDDENLY CALLED HOME 10th OCTOBER 1910 AGED 76 YEARS "BE YE ALSO READY" ALSO THEIR LOVED GRANDSON DONALD WM. BUCK KILLED IN THE GREAT WAR 12 OCT 1917 AGED 19 YEARS HIS BODY RESTS IN FLANDERS BLESSED ARE THE PURE (lower lines illegible and crumbling)[<i>IN HEART FOR THEY SHALL SEE GOD</i>]</p>	<p>Mary Ann Webb</p> <p>William Webb</p> <p>Donald William Buck</p>	<p>1909</p> <p>1910</p> <p>1917</p>	<p>This stone is falling over and needs to be set upright to avoid collapse. Extensive shrub growth to the front of the headstone.</p>

44	Headstone	<p>IN LOVING MEMORY OF ANDREW SAUNDERS WHO DIED 11TH MAY 1979 AGED 64 YEARS ALSO HIS BELOVED WIFE LILLIAN ELLEN SAUNDERS WHO DIED 1ST AUG 1997 AGED 75 YEARS</p>	<p>Andrew Saunders</p> <p>Lillian Ellen Saunders</p>	<p>1979</p> <p>1997</p>	
45	Headstone	<p><i>[IN LOVING MEMORY OF FREDERICK BALDRY SAUNDERS DIED OCT 26th 1965 AGED 82 YEARS ALSO HIS WIFE OLIVE MAY DIED MARCH 15th 1969 AGED 85 YEARS Reunited]</i></p>	<p>Frederick Baldry Saunders</p> <p>Olive May Saunders</p>	<p><i>[1965]</i></p> <p><i>[1969]</i></p>	<p>This stone has fallen horizontal; severe flaking to face. Needs clearing and setting upright</p>
46	Headstone	<p>IN LOVING MEMORY OF A DEAR HUSBAND FATHER AND GRANDAD GEORGE GLADWELL 1905-1990</p>	<p>George Gladwell</p> <p>Sybil Gladwell</p>	<p>1990</p> <p>1997</p>	

		<p>AND A LOVING WIFE MOTHER AND GRANDMA SYBIL GLADWELL 1908-1997 (On the reverse) REMEMBERING 60 YEARS OF FAITHFUL SERVICE</p>			
47	Headstone	<p>DAVID HOLMES 1926-2014 on a winter's afternoon in a secluded chapel</p>	David Holmes	2014	
48	Headstone	<p>LINDA HOLMES 1950-2015 loved by many too soon</p>	Linda Holmes	2015	

