

**LIMPSFIELD CHURCHYARD:
THOSE REMEMBERED,
THOSE FORGOTTEN**



GRAHAM DIXON

This volume is concerned specifically with the non-musicians in Limpsfield Churchyard.

Limpsfield Church has published a separate booklet concentrating on the many musicians who are interred there.

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THOSE REMEMBERED,
THOSE FORGOTTEN**

GRAHAM DIXON



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Limpsfield and Titsey

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These resting places of the dead,
How beautiful they lie;
The green grass turf above them spread,
Beneath a summer sky.

From *The Churchyard* by John Clare



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Dedication

It is both with profound sadness and a strong sense of purpose that I have worked on this guide to the churchyard of St Peter's Church, Limpsfield. At the same time, it has been a privilege and a responsibility to take over this project and produce the volume that Robin Masefield had intended to write before his untimely death in June 2025.

From the first, Robin and I became great friends. That was probably inevitable when he arrived from Northern Ireland in 2024. As he regularly pointed out, it was surprising to find two Fellows of the Royal Asiatic Society in one village! His omnivorous curiosity extended way beyond Asian subjects. Having a conversation with Robin, perhaps when we met by chance in the village street, was always a delight, as well as providing considerable intellectual stimulation. I trust he would be pleased that his vision for a churchyard book has now been realised.

In the original plan we envisaged a division of the work, so that I would write about the musicians interred in the churchyard, while Robin would deal with the non-musicians. The booklet on musicians has been published separately. It was a sad moment to receive his email handing the project over and passing on his suggested list of biographies. Based on his knowledge of the churchyard, he had identified the key figures who would form the basis of the volume. His list informs Chapter Three, though I have added further figures whose importance has become apparent during my research. If Robin had been writing, he would surely also have shared his deep appreciation of the churchyard trees and other flora. In fact, he revised a separate leaflet on the trees of the churchyard. Robin was curious about those who rest here and he also played a significant part in caring for this special environment.

While commemorating people from the more distant past, we are also in this volume remembering Robin himself. I have included his biography among those presented below.

I would like to acknowledge the role of Dr Nicholas Dixon. Our endless conversations about Limpsfield history have greatly contributed to this volume, together with his provision of significant archival references. Caroline Campbell, Helen Dixon and Katharine Richman contributed to layout and proofreading – my sincerest thanks for their support.

For me, the most poignant and heart-warming aspect of researching this volume was the realisation that, using medieval wills, we could identify the names of Limpsfield residents, now long forgotten. While we know almost nothing about their lives, it is a privilege to recall their names.

Graham Dixon
Limpsfield, April 2026

Only the more obscure sources have been noted, so that the main text is not cluttered by multiple references. However, it would be appropriate to record my reliance on documents in the Surrey History Centre, the Oxford Dictionary of National Biography, and the genealogical sources digitised on ancestry.com.

The location of individual graves has been noted using the what3words app. While this is not entirely accurate, it gives a clear indication of the area within which the monuments can be located. These locations are indicated by three oblique slashes. The codes used to mark the site of graves are those traditionally employed in church documents – the first letter gives the block, the second letter the row, and the final number denotes the position within the row.

The Limpsfield Community

Limpsfield churchyard has both a visible and an invisible history. There are many interesting memorials to parishioners, both well-known and now forgotten. However, the stones we now see conceal more ancient layers, traces of which can only be found in historical documents. From the fifteenth century onwards, we can consult the wills of people who left offerings to the church, expressing the desire to be buried in the churchyard. Among the earliest was John Bottley who wrote in January 1488:

In the name of God Amen[.] I John Botteley bequest [sic] my sole to allmyghty god, & to our blessed lady and to all the company of Heven: and my [body] to be byried in the churchyard of the church of Saynt Peter within Lymesfeld. Item to the hey awter [high altar], viiid. Item to our lady Chapell, viiid.

It would seem likely that his intention was fulfilled. After all, it was the only burial place in the parish. To indicate his respect for the church, Bottley bequeathed to the church eight pence for the high altar and eight pence for the Lady Chapel. These funds may have been to provide candles or other requisites. Wills indicating similar donations exist from John Hethe (1490), John Nutfild (1493), another John Hethe (1517), Joan Bukland (1521), Robert Lame (1536) and John Homden (1549). Any trace of the actual sites of burial has long since been lost. Subsequent memorials have been erected in their turn, and it may well be that graves were normally unmarked in this period. However, it is worth noting that some early stones survive under the yew tree at Titsey Place; they were employed in building the rectory in Titsey, now demolished.

Homden's bequest to the high altar marks the end of an era, since in the wake of the Reformation the original ornaments of the church were removed. During the reign of Edward VI, the stone altar was replaced by a simple communion table. We have an indication of a brief return to Catholic practice during the five-year reign of Queen Mary, when Joan Obberte in her will of 1558 requested burial in the churchyard and left funds for the high altar, as well as endowing masses to be celebrated at the time of her burial and in the months following. From that time onwards, any parishioners who mention a churchyard burial in their wills tend simply to leave money to the poor of the parish or, occasionally, for repairs to the church.

Even in more recent times, changes have taken place within the churchyard. For instance, when describing Limpsfield, *Black's guide to the history, antiquities, and topography of the County of Surrey* (1861) mentions only a single feature in the churchyard, 'a raised tomb to Anna, wife of Richard Campion, d. 1679.'. Such a monument would clearly have been a prominent table tomb, though the inscribed stone now lies on the ground (///dose.melon.shades). She was closely connected to the Gresham family, as her inscription (translated from Latin) shows:¹

Sacred to the Memory of Anne, the uniquely beloved wife of Richard Campion of Newton in the county of Hampshire, Esquire, who wished that her remains should be laid to rest in the open air close to this sacred edifice and as near as possible, the wall permitting, to the tombs of Sir Edward Gresham, Knight, and of his wife, Dame Mary (she was the step-daughter of the one and daughter of the other by Gabriel Wight of Brockham in the county of Surrey, Esquire). Resting here in the blessed hope of the resurrection, she has fulfilled her wish. There is nothing more for you [here], traveller: this is the solitude (be not jealous!) she wished for herself. Death makes us equal. She died at London on 19 August 1679, aged 56.

Comely form is fleeting and the other gifts of life pass away: I looked on each in turn [and] have borne nothing away.

From the Reformation period onwards, it is the parish registers which give us the details of burials. The first thing one notices is the number of child burials, an indication of the high incidence of infant mortality. John Dorant, for instance, was baptised and buried on the same day in 1542. Similarly, there are frequent burials of nurse-children, infants being cared for by someone other than their parents, for instance, the 'Londoner's child kept by Henry Wells' in 1558. In addition to the children, we find the sad case of Robert Juell, a member of the prominent local family, who took his own life in 1555. Burials of various members of the clergy and their children are also recorded, as well as several Parish Clerks, an increasingly important role in the emerging Anglican church. We are also introduced to a now-forgotten piece of vocabulary, a 'chrysome', namely a child who died within one month of being baptised. Some other distressing records occur, for instance, the burial in 1648 of 'a vagrant young wench named Anne Lowe, of Sutto[n]', together with some who died unbaptised, for instance, 'Joan, wife of Robert Wood de Tytsye' in 1595.² At the time, that must have given rise to some concern about her eternal destiny. And as plague swept across Europe in the 1620s, we find that Limpsfield was not immune, with several plague deaths being recorded in 1625.

From the 1680s we find the first mentions of the Outtrim and Jarrett families, long-standing Limpsfield residents, in the church registers. In particular, the Outtrim family are recalled in monuments spanning some centuries, including those on the right immediately before entering the church through the south door. It is inevitable that a booklet such as this concentrates on the lives of those who achieved some fame or – in some cases – notoriety. Many of the monuments, however, record people whose contribution to village life is largely now forgotten, those who played their part as generous and loyal friends, good neighbours and family members. For many centuries only the

wealthier members of the community would have been able to afford the luxury of a monument; many will have been buried without any stone being erected.



Landmark Monuments

While some of the names mentioned in medieval wills are still known to us, we have no visible memorials. The wealthiest inhabitants, who could afford monuments, were generally placed inside the church itself. Often, the bodies of the most prominent citizens were buried in a vault. Those buried in the churchyard were typically laid to rest without any marker to indicate their location. Where some monument existed, it was more than likely a wooden cross, long since decayed. It makes some sense to mention at the outset that Limsfield churchyard currently still preserves one wooden memorial, commemorating Horace and Alice Berry, who died in 1936 and 1941. They donated the horse trough which for many years stood at the end of Detillens Lane. Their grave serves as a reminder that wood continued to be used for memorials in Surrey for many centuries. An undated eighteenth-century ink drawing of Limsfield churchyard preserved in the British Library shows similar wooden memorials.³

It is also worth noting that the expansive churchyard we see today is the result of several gradual extensions to the original small plot, made possible by the addition of adjacent land in 1862, 1893, and 1934. In 1862, the proceeds from the sale of the Parish Workhouse were used to purchase land from the Titsey estate; this was consecrated by the Bishop of Winchester. The following extension was due to the generosity of Granville Leveson-Gower, who donated a further quarter of an acre, the new area being consecrated by the Bishop of Rochester in July 1893. Another modification was the closure of a particular footpath in 1831 'to increase the quiet and privacy of the Burial Ground, and to secure it as much as possible from the intrusions of Children for the purpose of playing and from other Nuisances'.⁴ The memorial gateway, designed

by Arthur Keene, originally functioned as the entrance to the 1934 section and was constructed in memory of John Brasier (1850-1932).

One of the other curiosities in Limpsfield churchyard is the presence of several rows of small stones, now basically illegible. These have often been assumed to be graves of children, and this would seem likely. Some might even have been footstones, marking the end of the grave, tidied away decades later to make space in the churchyard. That said, one of these can be deciphered



Small gravestones, often referred to as the graves of children, in Limpsfield Churchyard.

© Graham Dixon

and shows some letters and a date: EL GL 1800. Reference to the burial register shows that Edward and Grace Loveland both died in the year 1800. We cannot be entirely sure of their ages. Given the use of initials and the minute dimensions of the gravestone, it might be reasonable to assume that these are children. However, it may not always be the case that all these diminutive stones are children's graves. One of them clearly bears the symbol of an hourglass, as a reminder of mortality, and it would seem rather inflated a gesture to have included such an embellishment on the grave of one who died in infancy.

Still readable in good light, some of the most ancient tombstones are positioned between the lychgate and the church entrance. Clearly, this was the area of the original churchyard devoted to some of the most prominent village families. By the time of the 1841 census, the Outtrim, Loveland and Steer families, whose graves are preserved in this area were listed as farmers, investing them with a significantly higher status than the agricultural labourers who comprised most of the population. There were four men described as farmers, as opposed to 98 labourers.

The Outtrim memorials were the subject on significant interest, when in 1987 descendants of the family, living in Canada, funded the restoration of the stones. Standing along the path is one of the oldest stones, commemorating Catherine Outtrim; it is among the oldest memorials in the churchyard, and it bears a melancholy poem:

Here lieth ye Body of Catherine wife of Isaac Outtrim who Dyd octo[be]r
ye 11th 1730 aged 70 years. She had Issue 8 Sons and 2 Daughters viz.
John Isaac Jacob Daniel Joseph who died young Thomas Job David Mary
and Sarah who died young.

Oh I am gone to be thy geste[.] Let me in
some Darck Lodging Rest[.] For I am weary
full of paine and of my pilgrimage complaine[.]

In leaving to become the guest of Death, Catherine left behind an exceptional treasury of genealogical information. Her memorial also provides an important example of the symbol stone, being surmounted by a skull and crossbones. Like the poem inscribed on the stone, it is a graphic reminder of mortality

Just behind, we see on the Loveland memorial an even more elaborate scene, angels playing trumpets to announce the resurrection, arousing the dead for the last judgement. Symbol stones abound in the older part of the churchyard, representing much to the iconographic range of the English memorial. Nearby we can find an 'open book', presumably expressing the desire of the deceased to find their name written in the 'Book of Life'. There are also hourglasses (Thomas Green, date not known), reminding those still living that time for repentance is running out; angels, presumably bearing the soul to its heavenly abode, and we find an urn signifying mourning on the gravestone of John Steer (d. 1870). The grave of



Gravestone of Edward Loveland (d.1763), Elizabeth (d.1740) and Judith (d.1775) showing angels with trumpets announcing the general resurrection

© Graham Dixon

Eizabeth Cowle, wife of Thomas, exhibits an extremely primitive carving of crossbones with no skull; one can only imagine that these people, though able to afford a stone, had relatively limited resources and sought to emulate the growing fashion for symbolic representations. Another primitive double monument bears the images of two skulls in the oldest part of the churchyard; Elizabeth Green (d.1766) and other family members rest beneath that memorial. One strange monument, only partially legible, depicts a wheel and a flaming torch (for illustration see p.13). The latter seems to have been a secular symbol, taken from the classical games, signifying the running of a relay race, while the wheel might suggest life running its course. Relatively

few stones carry armorial bearings of families. One of the best preserved is that of Gerald Gascoigne Lynde (d.1938). A noted bibliophile, he lived at Tenchleys and served as President of the Federation of Civil Engineering Contractors.



Gravestone of John Green showing a celestial being, arguably cherubim or seraphim, with many wings

© Graham Dixon

While prominent laity are clustered around the normal entrance for the congregation, the graves of the clergy and their families are found closer to the chancel end of the church. Here we find surnames such as Charlesworth, Haldane Stewart and Barclay, families which will be discussed in the biographical notes below. It is interesting to note the well-preserved grave of Richard Ridley (d.1883), close to the north side of the church. For 44 years, he served as Parish Clerk, an important role, which combined liturgical, practical and administrative duties. He would lead the congregation in responses and even singing, make sure the

church was in good order and prepared for services, and, on occasion, complete the registers. It is a role now largely forgotten, which was to be fulfilled by someone who 'shall be of twenty years of age at least, and known to the said Parson, Vicar or Minister, to be of honest conversation, and sufficient for his Reading, Writing, and also for his competent skill in Singing'.⁵ The instructions Ridley received in 1839 from the Rector regarding the fees to be charged and the administration of the churchyard still survive. They are transcribed in Appendix Two.

Further afield within the churchyard, we find more recent graves of note. A few have revived the eighteenth-century practice of creating symbol stones. One example is the grave of Elizabeth Francis Harley, who died in 1930 at the age of 97. Two pensive angels hold a shield with the inscription, 'VIRTUE SHALL LIVE'. Above that is something which looks like a shell, however, it probably symbolises rays of light descending from the heavens. Touchingly, the stone recounts that she was 'much beloved by her [...] many friends', one of whom carved the stone to record her 'courage, wisdom & kindness'. The other more recent symbol stone commemorates the priest, Edward



Symbol stones with skulls as a reminder of mortality. Gravestone of William and Elizabeth Green (d.1766)

© Graham Dixon

Secker Maltby (d.1934); following medieval practice, it shows the host above a chalice and contains an inscription in Latin, recording his priesthood and commending his soul to God. The use of Latin comes as no surprise. He held prominent positions within the branch of Anglo-Catholicism termed Anglican Papalism, actively seeking to subsume the Church of England back into the Roman Church. Another variant on the symbol stone is to be found on the gravestone of William Fawcett Berry (1857-1933). Not only do we have the words, 'I Know my Redeemer Liveth', but the first line of the music from Handel's *Messiah* is also given. He was the elder brother of Frederick Berry (1860-1955), the Limpsfield Postmaster and Parish Clerk for over half a century. The so-called New Post Office is named after Frederick, Berry House. Frederick is buried elsewhere in the churchyard.

The inscriptions in the churchyard can assist us in charting the development of the Anglican tradition more generally. With the growth of the Evangelical movement in the nineteenth century there is an increased incidence of biblical or hymn verses providing reassurance of the world to come. Rather than the factual memorials of previous generations, people felt the need to make an overt expression of personal faith. For instance, we find in the churchyard:

- Him that cometh unto me I will in no wise cast out.
- Peace perfect Peace.
- Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.
- Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.
- Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord.

The memorial for the Rev. David Dale Stewart simply states, 'Looking unto Jesus'. At the same time, we find the use of the cross, rather than a carved stone, to indicate the place of a grave. Another development in the twentieth century was the widespread use of the Celtic cross, and not just for people of Scottish and Irish descent. For many, this distinctive symbol provided a sense of cultural continuity with ancient British heritage, as well as embodying faith as the pathway to victory.

Though one is naturally moved in any graveyard by the numbers of children commemorated from times of high infant mortality, some other tragic deaths are recorded. In 1915, William Henry Shore was 'killed by motor accident at Canterbury while on duty'; his Territorial Army Unit had been mobilised and was stationed in Canterbury awaiting departure for Gallipoli. The victim of another motor accident, this time near Bletchingley, John Cuthbert Robbins (d.1932), only in his mid-20s, had made a considerable impression as a naturalist, noting his own observations as well as editing *The London Naturalist*.⁶

Another sad accident is commemorated on a memorial in the churchyard, namely, the death of RAF pilot John Nugent de Merle Tyrrell in a mid-air collision while on a training flight at RAF Scampton in Lincolnshire. He died in March 1938 at the age of 25.



*Memorial to Lieutenant Thomas Henry James
(d.1910)*

© Graham Dixon

Also worthy of mention in connection with tragic circumstances is Harriet Kennard (1783-1866), who is commemorated for heroically nursing the victims of the last major cholera outbreak; the burial register



*Symbol stone showing wheel and flaming torch.
Gravestone of Frances Burley (d.1771)*

© Graham Dixon

demonstrates that the contagion had spread south of London in late 1866. Harriet is listed in the 1841 census as the wife of an Agricultural Labourer in Limpsfield. By 1851 she is widowed, designated as a 'pauper' and living in Brasted with the family of her daughter. By the following census in 1861, she is listed as 'formerly nurse'; this shows why she had the competence to volunteer for the courageous task of caring that led to her own death aged 82.

Some prominent characters, particularly in the medieval period, found their resting place in the church itself, while most Limpsfield residents over the

centuries have finally reposed in the earth of the churchyard. Death proves a great leveller, as the poor rest close to the wealthy and distinguished. As we shall see in the next section, the Limpsfield story includes the lives of many who distinguished themselves in various walks of life – the military, the church, politics and the arts. In recounting their stories, it cannot be forgotten that they only represent a small proportion of those who contributed to the life of the village. It is worth remembering that half of the residents in the mid-nineteenth century were agricultural labourers, many of whom with their families are forgotten and rest without any memorial.



Table tomb of John Martin Marriott (d.1828)

© Graham Dixon

On occasion, the more prominent families of Limpsfield did indeed recognise the contribution of those who lived alongside them. It is perhaps surprising to find that one of the few table tombs in the churchyard, not far from the lychgate, commemorates not some lord of the manor, but rather those in service to the Leveson Gower family, most notably, Anne Medgett who 'was for many years the valued Nurse

and Friend in the family of WILLIAM LEVESON GOWER Senior Esq'. She died at his house on Clapham Common in February 1838. Also mentioned are her husband and son, both named Edward. On a more modest scale, another servant is commemorated in a gravestone on the other side of the church. Sarah Wilson (d.1860), it states, was 'for many years a faithful and attached servant in the family of the late James G.L. Trimbley Esq.re'. Trimbley was listed a merchant in Streatham in the 1841 census, however Sarah is not given as a member of his household at that point. Since she passed away at the age of 84, this would suggest that they remained close even after her retirement from service. It must have been the same situation for Anne Rule (d.1870) in the service of the Strong family of Hayes, Kent. The Strongs had considerable Limpsfield connections, and we find that Anne was still resident with them as a servant aged 78, at the time of the 1861 census. From a still later date, we find the gravestone commemorating Maria Jackson (d.1875) as 'For 38 Years the faithful Servant and friend of General Mr Robert Martin Leake of Woodhurst, Oxted'. It has been noted that relatively few table tombs appear in the churchyard. A notable example is that which commemorates John Martin Marriott, a prominent landowner, whose inscription indicates that a vault is located below the monument. An

obituary in *The Gentleman's Magazine* (1815) records that his mother was also buried in Limpsfield, her husband Samuel Marriott, Accountant-General in the Excise Office, having passed away long before in February 1787.⁷

After the Second World War, Limpsfield's proximity to London and rural charm made the area attractive to commuters and those seeking a quieter life outside the city. Gone were the days when successive generations were working the land and pursuing rural crafts. Because of its beauty, Limpsfield attracted residents whose families could no longer afford to maintain large estates with servants. For instance, Jessamine Cottage was home to the Dowager Countess of Clancarty, Mary Gwatkin Le-Poer-Trench (d.1974), a practitioner of Christian Science. She was the second wife of William, 5th Earl of Clancarty, who had sold the family property in 1904 and was later declared bankrupt. According to records, the position of her grave is in the churchyard is known, yet it has not been possible to find her name on the monument which records other family members. Thus, even she has joined the ranks of those who lie unrecognised in the churchyard, an extraordinary procession of characters, dating back to those we know from early wills, and those who are now entirely forgotten from the time of the earlier church building whose existence is recorded in the Domesday Book.

Any churchyard is more than its graves and monuments. At St Peter's, the churchyard is approached through a lychgate, itself a listed structure dating from the fourteenth century. Though clearly much restored, the original fabric survives, comprising a timber frame, supported by ironstone rubble plinths, and above a hipped Horsham stone roof. As the name, derived from the Old English for 'corpse', implies, the gate was integral to the activity of the churchyard. It marked the transition from secular to sacred space and was the point at which the priest would meet the coffin on its way to burial. By 1891 the ancient gate had been enclosed with wooden planks and its roof was overgrown with ivy. In that year, one of the Churchwardens, David Guild Landale, covered the

cost of the work to reveal the original structure and to replace the decayed wood.⁸

The churchyard also contains two ancient yew trees, regarded by some as a symbol of immortality, with significance which appears to predate the introduction of Christianity. It has been suggested that they survived because churchyard yews could not be felled to produce weapons, and it is true that England has a comparatively large stock of such trees.

The Romantic movement tended to see the churchyard not just as a burial place, but as a place of peace and natural beauty, ideal for quiet reflection. As the churchyard began to be seen in this light, the provision of benches for contemplation became a way of commemorating the departed. Limpsfield churchyard has a number of these. One recalls a family name important in the Church of England, Colenso. It was the dubious, arguably heretical beliefs of John William Colenso, Bishop of Natal, which led to the first Lambeth Conference being convened in 1867. His grandson, John Eric Colenso (d.1946) was churchwarden in the 1930s and is commemorated in a bench close to the lychgate. Another bench commemorates the Rev. Henry Summerhayes, Director of St. Michael's School, 1913-1928.



*Symbol stone with urn. Gravestone of John Steer
(d.1870)*

© Graham Dixon

Notable Figures

In making this selection, it soon becomes apparent that certain lives are particularly well documented, namely people with military, scientific, ecclesiastical and political careers. Inevitably, therefore, the brief biographies below are biased towards those areas. At the outset, it seems important to remember the contribution to local and even national life which many residents made, and which has now been obscured in the sands of time.

It is also clear that most of the narratives below concern the men, rather than the women of Limpsfield. For much of history, men have had greater access to prominent public roles, and their achievements were more likely to be documented, while the contribution of women to society often went unrecorded. This imbalance shows the limitations of the historical record, which is inevitably shaped by the values of earlier centuries.

1. Robert Atkinson, known as 'Elias the Prophet' (1734-1817)

///unwanted.fakes.saying | Block CD

In 1788, Legh Hoskins Master, the Rector of Limpsfield, wrote in a visitation return to the Bishop of Winchester of a man 'who calls himself Elias the Prophet, & is sometimes very troublesome. His name is Robert Atkinson.' Atkinson, who was originally from Skipwith in Yorkshire, was born in 1734. He attended school and worked in agriculture from the age of 13. By 1770, he was living in the parish of All Hallows Barking in London and describing himself as a 'gentleman'. In that year, he married Elizabeth, daughter of Edward Loveland of Limpsfield.

In 1782, Atkinson had two religious tracts published by the nonconformist printer Henry Trapp of Paternoster Row, London: *The*

Key of Prophecy: being the Opening of the Seals of the Revealed Will of God and a sermon entitled *The Christian's Duty Explained: shewing what the Lord requireth of him*. In the former, Atkinson explained that he had read the Bible assiduously from an early age. Having studied biblical prophecies, he had become convinced that the Second Coming was imminent. As a result, he had 'sold off' his business in Yorkshire and travelled to London in order 'to hear what transpired among the learned, and to deliver what the Holy Spirit had revealed to me'. Atkinson applied to a bishop for ordination, but much to his frustration, was told that he was ineligible because he had not 'learnt the foreign languages', namely Greek and Hebrew essential for studying the scriptures. He launched into a reproof of the clergy and their practices of collecting tithes and surplice fees, as well as an exposition of the seven seals in the Book of Revelation.

Despite this, Atkinson appears to have remained a churchgoer and lamented in his sermon that in 'country villages', the poor were spending Sundays in public houses rather than at church. He does not seem to have published any other writings or to have garnered any sizeable following. Atkinson died in 1817 and was buried in a service conducted by Master's successor, Robert Mayne. A headstone marks the graves of Robert Atkinson junior, who died in 1827, and his family. During the 1820s, their son Edward Atkinson established a shop in Limpsfield's High Street that later became Wickham's Stores. Edward died in 1881, having served as overseer of the poor in Limpsfield as well as churchwarden for many years.⁹

2. Florence Louisa Barclay (1862-1921)

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Florence Louisa Barclay was the second daughter of Reverend Samuel Charlesworth, Rector of Limpsfield and his wife, Maria Amelia (née Beddome). At the age of seven, she moved from rural Surrey to Limehouse, where her father ministered to the urban poor. In 1881 she married Reverend Charles Barclay, her father's curate, working alongside him in Hertfordshire, playing the organ, organising classes and recreational activities. Following the birth of her last child, she devoted herself to evangelistic work. Though she had previously published a novel under a pseudonym, an illness in 1905 gave her space to return to writing more



Florence Louisa Barclay

[Public Domain]

seriously. Her most celebrated work, *The Rosary* (1910), became an international bestseller, selling half-a-million copies within a short time. The novel's success led to adaptations, including a film starring Pauline Frederick. Despite suffering a cerebral hemorrhage in 1912, Florence continued to write, and her novels remained popular. In keeping with her faith, she determined never to write anything which might provide the occasion for sin. Back in Limpsfield, Florence died in 1921. Her legacy endures through her novels and the biography *The Life of Florence L. Barclay: a study in personality, by one of her daughters* (1921).

3. Sir John Williams Benn (1850-1922), First Baronet

///props.speech.alarm | Block FF10

Sir John Williams Benn, First Baronet, was a British politician mainly remembered for his contribution to London political life and as the founder of a political dynasty. Born in Manchester to a Congregationalist minister, his family relocated to London, opening an institute for homeless boys in London's East End.

Benn's political career began in earnest when the London County Council was formed in 1889. He stood successfully as a Progressive Party candidate for East Finsbury, marking the start of his deep involvement in municipal government. A prominent advocate for fair treatment of workers, Benn supported the London Dock Strike of 1889. In 1892, he entered the national stage as a Liberal Party Member of Parliament for St George's Division of Tower Hamlets. Although narrowly defeated in 1895, he remained a dedicated London councillor. Benn returned to Parliament in 1904 representing Devonport, where he served until 1910.

His family's commitment to public service continued through his son, William Wedgwood Benn, and his grandson, Tony Benn, who became a major political figure. In recognition of his parliamentary and municipal work, Benn was knighted in 1906 and made a baronet in 1914. He led the Progressive Party on the London County Council until ill health forced him to step down in 1918, but he remained a Council member until his death in 1922.

4. Fritz-Otto Busch (1890-1971)

///search.body.salads | Block KI2

Fritz-Otto Busch was born in Lindenthal near Cologne, into a family with a banking background. He joined the Imperial German Navy in 1912 and served during World War One, participating in the Battle of Jutland. He was awarded the Iron Cross (1st and 2nd Class) and the Friedrich-August Cross for his service. After the war, Busch continued

his naval career until 1928, attaining the rank of Korvettenkapitän. During the Nazi era, he became a prominent propagandist, authoring numerous works – frequently on naval themes – under his own name and pseudonyms such as Peter Cornelissen. He was involved in the propaganda ministry during World War Two. Often explicitly racist in writing, his book, *The Vikings*, was intended to indoctrinate young people with Nazi ideology and was widely disseminated. He moved to England after the war to marry an English woman he had met decades earlier. While here, he continued to publish books on the German navy. He died in Limpsfield on 5 July 1971 and is interred together with his wife, born Francis May Frecheville (1892-1971).

5. General Sir Edward Francis Chapman (1840-1926)

///degree.locker.knee | Block FE5

Born in Calcutta, General Sir Edward Francis Chapman was a distinguished Army officer whose career spanned several major military campaigns and important administrative roles. He began his military service in 1858 with the Bengal Artillery, which later merged into the Royal Artillery.

He participated in the Second Anglo-Afghan War (1878–80) as Chief of Staff during the legendary march from Kabul to Kandahar, and later in the Third Anglo-Burmese War. Beyond his battlefield activity, Chapman held several influential staff and command positions. He was appointed Military

Secretary to the Commander-in-Chief, India, in 1881, and later became Quartermaster-General for India from 1885 to 1889. Chapman went on to serve as Director of Military Intelligence at the War Office in 1891 and



General Sir Edward Francis Chapman

[Public Domain]

later as Commander of the Scottish District from 1896 to 1901. In his later years, he served as Master Gunner of St James's Park, the ceremonial commander of the Royal Regiment of Artillery, from 1919 until his death.

6. Rev. John Charlesworth (1782-1868)

///sums.same.gears | close to Block AA14

John Charlesworth was born at Ossington in Nottinghamshire, where his father was Rector. Initially, he trained in medicine and worked with a surgeon in Clapham. There he became closely associated with the evangelical Clapham Sect, whose members included William Wilberforce, with whom he campaigned to abolish the slave trade.

Ordained deacon in 1809 and priest in 1814, Charlesworth embarked on a lifetime of pastoral ministry. He served as curate of Happisburgh in Norfolk before moving to Suffolk as rector of Flowton, where he served for thirty years. Having decided to improve his theological knowledge, he graduated as a Bachelor of Divinity at Queen's College, Cambridge in 1826. In 1844 he became rector of St Mildred's, Bread Street, London, a post he held until his death. Throughout, he actively engaged with wider social concerns. He regarded slavery as fundamentally opposed to Christian teaching and worked with Wilberforce and his circle to rally public and religious opinion.

Charlesworth's strength lay in his preaching, writing, and the example he set. He was the author of *On Affliction and Spiritual Distress* (1842), a spiritual reflection on suffering. He died in 1864 at Islington and was buried in Limpsfield, where his son Samuel (below) was Rector. His life is recorded in *The Quiet Worker for Good: A Familiar Sketch of John Charlesworth* (1865) by John Purcell Fitz-Gerald.

7. Rev. Samuel Beddowes Charlesworth (1817-1897)

///sums.same.gears | Block AA14

Reverend Samuel Charlesworth was an Anglican priest, remembered for his ministry in both Limpsfield and urban Limehouse, East London, where he moved with his family in 1870. He was Curate of Limpsfield under Haldane Stewart, and then Rector from 1857 to 1870. Charlesworth was deeply committed to his parishioners, risking his own health to care for cholera victims. Charlesworth's approach to ministry was practical; as well as caring for their souls, he supported his parishioners as a friend. He was married to Maria Amelia Beddome, his first cousin, in 1857, and together they worked tirelessly to support the poor and educate children in their parishes. After Maria's death, Charlesworth wrote *Memorials of a Blessed Life* (1882), chronicling his wife's service. His daughter Maud (1865-1948) became involved with the Salvation Army and struck up a friendship with General Booth's daughter. Samuel then condemned the Salvation Army for its emotionalism and 'intense excitement', writing both in the pages of *The Times* and in his book, *Sensational Religion as Resorted to in the system called the "Salvation Army"*. This created a significant rift in the family; after Maria's death in 1881 he resigned from his position at Limehouse, subsequently living in Bath and Clapham.

8. Maria Amelia Charlesworth (1826-1881)

///sums.same.gears | Block AA13

Maria Amelia Charlesworth, née Beddome, was born on 8 May 1826, in Clapham. She was the eldest daughter of Richard Boswell Beddome, a successful solicitor in the City of London and devout evangelical Christian. Maria married her cousin, Rev. Samuel Charlesworth, in 1857, and became an integral partner in his ministry. Her life was dedicated to the service of God, through her work with both the poor and children in Limpsfield and Limehouse. Maria died on 7 November 1881. Her life is commemorated in her husband's volume, *Memorials of a Blessed Life* (1882).

Her most significant memorial is in the Hawksmoor Church, St Anne's Limehouse, which highlights her lifelong commitment to faith and service, 'Her whole life from early childhood was consecrated to the service of God, as the friend and loving instructor of the poor and their children, and in seeking to lead sinners to the Lord Jesus Christ, as God their Saviour'.

9. Henry Cox (1787-1877)

///gone.insect.employ | Block CA/B13

Cox was a prominent gentleman farmer who purchased Trevereux, a notable estate to the south of the parish in 1817 at the age of thirty. He came from a wealthy line of landowners based around Farningham in Kent and had inherited some substantial sums.¹⁰ Cox paid £5,600 for Trevereux, an enormous amount at the time. He was known for meticulous record-keeping, maintaining a journal from 1808 to 1849 that documented the natural occurrences and farming activities on his estate. With no male heirs, his daughter, Mary Emma Cox (1847–1924), eventually inherited the estate. She later married Lt. Col. Walter Tuckfield Goldsworthy, who became the MP for Hammersmith.¹¹

10. Solomon Penury Cox (1794-1850)

///gone.insect.employ | Block CA/B13

It is worth pointing out at the outset, that 'Penury' was an ancient family name, and in the circumstances, it would seem quite inappropriate.¹² Born at Farningham in Kent, like his brother, he inherited extensive estates in Kent. His monument in the churchyard, a table tomb, records that he was a member of the Inner Temple, so he seems to have concentrated on the law, rather than farming and administering his lands. He is also commemorated within the church itself. He died unmarried at Limpsfield in the house of his brother Henry, leaving the generous sum of £200 for the education of the poor children of the parish of Eynsford in Kent.

11. Mountstuart Elphinstone (1779-1859)

On West Wall of Church

The fourth son of the 11th Baron Elphinstone, Mountstuart was a prominent Scottish statesman, historian, and colonial administrator, known for his influential role in British India. Having entered the British East India Company's civil service in 1795, he distinguished himself in several important diplomatic and administrative posts.

Elphinstone's early career included a posting as assistant to the British Resident in Pune. In 1818, he played a decisive role in the defeat of the Maratha Peshwa Baji Rao II, which marked the consolidation of British rule in western India. As Commissioner of the Deccan and from 1819 as Lieutenant-Governor of Bombay (now Mumbai), he was innovative in promoting general education and sought to preserve and adapt existing Maratha institutions. He returned lands and temples taken by the British to their Indian owners.



Mountstuart Elphinstone

© National Portrait Gallery, London

Elphinstone was a prolific scholar: his *Account of the Kingdom of Caubul* (1815) was crucial for the British understanding of Afghanistan, and his two-volume *History of India* (1841) proved highly influential. Elphinstone College in Mumbai was founded by public subscription in his honour. Having declined the role of Governor-General of India,

preferring his scholarly pursuits, he died at Hookwood in 1859. He is also commemorated by a monument in the crypt of St Paul's Cathedral.

Samuel Charlesworth, as Rector, recorded that he was extremely displeased with the Limpsfield monument. He wrote, 'The monument erected outside the Church under the Western Window was put up during my absence abroad in consequence of ill health, without any design being submitted to me. On returning home I was greatly distressed to find how unsuitable a monument has been erected and that it had been built into the wall of the Church'.¹³

12. Sir John Elphinstone (1807-1860)
West Wall of Church

Also commemorated with an impressive monument inside the church, Sir John was Governor of Madras (now Chennai) and Bombay (now Mumbai). He was made a Knight Grand Cross of the Order of the Bath (GCB) in 1858 and created Baron Elphinstone of Elphinstone, Stirlingshire, on 21 May 1859. His connection with Limpsfield is as the nephew of Mountstuart.



Sir John Elphinstone

© National Portrait Gallery, London

13. Lewis George Fry (1860-1933)

///watch.stick.scrap | Block BD24

Fry was a British landscape painter known for his depictions of rural life and the English countryside. Born in Clifton, Bristol, he was educated at Clifton College and New College, Oxford, before studying art under Francis Bate and at the Slade School of Fine Art in London. He settled in Limpsfield, where the surrounding scenery frequently inspired his work. Fry's paintings are represented in the Fry Art Gallery, Saffron Walden. In Limpsfield, he is also remembered for editing a volume dedicated to local history, *Oxted, Limpsfield and Neighbourhood* (1932).



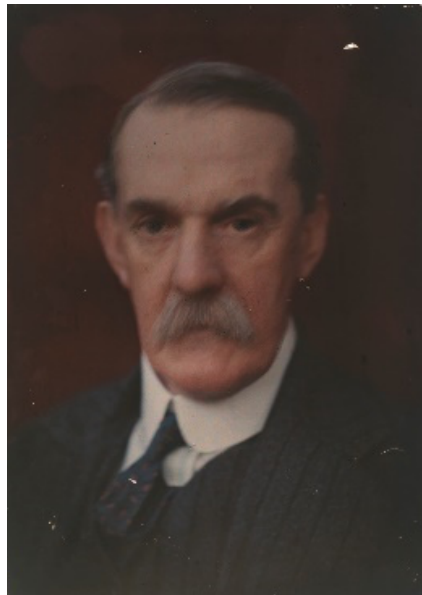
Lewis George Fry, Landscape [possibly near Limpsfield]

© Graham Dixon

14. Sir Richard Tetley Glazebrook (1854-1935)

///object.rested.brains | Block BB9

Sir Richard Tetley Glazebrook was an eminent physicist and engineer, born in West Derby, Liverpool. He was educated at Dulwich College and Trinity College, Cambridge, later working at the newly established Cavendish Laboratory. From 1899, Glazebrook served as the first Director of the National Physical Laboratory (NPL), where he oversaw pioneering research in physics and engineering. During World War One, Glazebrook and his staff were working on military projects, including radio communications and replicating products obtained from Germany. Following a short period as a Professor at Imperial College, he settled in Limpsfield in 1924. His work on scientific standards and his vision for the practical application of scientific discoveries was crucial to the advancement of British industry and technology. Glazebrook was knighted for his services to science and remained active in academic and professional circles throughout his life.



Sir Richard Tetley Glazebrook

© National Portrait Gallery, London

15. Maurice Pascal Alers Hankey, First Baron Hankey (1877-1963)

///fat.splice.jumps | Block MP2

Maurice Pascal Alers Hankey was a distinguished British civil servant, best known as the first Cabinet Secretary, serving from 1916 to 1938. Born in Biarritz, Hankey was educated at Rugby School and the Royal Naval College, Greenwich. He began his career as a Royal Marine officer before moving into government service.

Hankey was appointed Naval Assistant Secretary to the Committee of Imperial Defence (CID) in 1908 and became its Secretary in 1912. During World War One, he played a crucial role as Secretary to the War Council and later the War Cabinet and Imperial War Cabinet, working closely with Prime Minister David Lloyd George. As Cabinet Secretary, a position he held under five Prime Ministers, he was instrumental in establishing the modern Cabinet Office system. Subsequently, from 1923, Hankey was also Clerk of the Privy Council. After retiring in 1938, he held various public and private sector roles and served briefly as a minister during World War Two, when he advised Chamberlain on setting up a new War Cabinet. Having been knighted long before, he was created Baron Hankey, of The Chart in the County of Surrey in 1939.



*Maurice Pascal Alers Hankey,
First Baron Hankey*

© National Portrait Gallery, London

16. Richard Heath (1831-1912)

///leaned.jerks.finely | Block FA11

Richard Heath was a respected artist, writer and social historian, remembered for his contributions to the understanding of rural and working-class life in Victorian England. Living his later years in Limpsfield, Heath was admired by contemporaries such as Ramsay MacDonald who spoke at his funeral in 1912. The writer and publisher, David Garnett, wrote in memoir *The Golden Echo* (1952):

Our gentle neighbour, Richard Heath, died in February 1912, at the age of eighty. It was fortunate that he did not live to see the war with Germany. He was buried in Limpsfield churchyard and Ramsay MacDonald and J. A. Hobson, both old friends of his, spoke at the side of the open grave. What they said was true and for that reason preferable to the usual service, but I have always disliked speeches at funerals and I did not like these. I remember looking at MacDonald's noble head with admiration, but wishing he would be silent.

Heath's most notable works include *The English Peasant: Studies: Historical, Local, and Biographic* (1893) and *The English Via Dolorosa* (1884), which highlighted the struggles of agricultural labourers and advocated for social reform. He also wrote on religious history, notably *The Reformation in France* (1886).

17. Edward Brodie Hoare MP (1841-1911)

///year.loves.press | Block AG13

Hoare was a banker and Conservative Party politician. Born in Richmond, Surrey, he was educated at Tonbridge School and Trinity College, Cambridge. In 1868, Hoare married Katharine Parry; one of their six children, Alan Brodie Hoare, was killed in action in 1917 during World War One. Hoare began his banking career as a partner in the family firm, Barnett, Hoare & Co., and later became a director of Lloyds Bank, chairman of the Colonial Bank, and director of the Standard Bank of South Africa.



Edward Brodie Hoare

© National Portrait Gallery, London

After two unsuccessful attempts, he was elected as MP for Hampstead in a by-election in 1888, serving until January 1902, when he resigned on health grounds. Edward Brodie Hoare died in a motor accident near Sevenoaks, Kent, at the age of 69.

18. Sir Cyril Jackson (1863-1924)

///degree.locker.knee | Block FE1

Sir Cyril Jackson KBE was an educationalist, best known for his transformative work in Western Australia. Jackson was educated at Charterhouse and New College, Oxford. He was inspired by the Oxford Movement to work among the London poor at Toynbee Hall and served as secretary of the Children's Country Holiday Fund. In 1896, he became inspector-general of schools in the colony of Western Australia, revolutionising the educational system by introducing technical education, abolishing school fees, and founding Claremont Teachers College. After



Sir Cyril Jackson

© National Portrait Gallery, London

returning to England, he remained active in education and public service, investigating alternatives to the poor law for supporting the unemployed. He was a member of the London County Council and the Senate of London University. In terms of social advancement, among other measures, he promoted the provision of medical treatment for school children, was involved with establishing a school-leaving age of fourteen and reducing class sizes. A dedicated public servant, he died at his home in Limpsfield, Ballards Shaw.

19. Lieutenant Thomas Henry James (1850-1910)

///rank.spot.dinner | Block FB25

The *Bulletin of the Japan Society, London* (1951) records that Japanese visitors to England would frequently come to Limpsfield to pay their respects at James's grave. He was one of several foreign experts employed by the Japanese government to support the modernisation of the country. A Lieutenant in the British Navy, he taught navigation at the University of Tokyo from 1876. The family connection to Japan remained strong, since his daughter Grace James (1882-1965) wrote children's stories based on Japanese fairy tales as well as publishing her detailed childhood reminiscences of Japan. The 1901 census shows the family living in Sanderstead with a Japanese valet, though by the time of his death, they were resident at Trevereux.

20. Brigadier Frank Robert Wordsworth Jameson (1893-1965)

///tune.same.barks | Cremation C6

After completing his education at Uppingham and Emmanuel College, Cambridge, Jameson became an Army officer. During the First World War he served in the Honourable Artillery Company and in the Royal Engineers. After distinguished war service, he entered the Egyptian Civil Service in 1919 as an Inspector in the Ministry of Finance, returning to the UK to serve in the Colonial Office, first as Assistant Private Secretary (Appointments) to the Secretary of State for the Colonies in 1928, then as Assistant Principal in 1931. At the outbreak of World War Two, he served with the Royal Corps of Signals in the Western Desert from 1941 to 1942. He was Secretary for the administration of Eritrea after its capture from the Italians. In his later years, he undertook various roles in the War Office and Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, retiring in 1955.

21. Fr Edward Secker Maltby (1860-1934)

///expect.safety.froze | Block BB7



*Gravestone of Fr Edward Secker
Maltby*

© Graham Dixon

The son of the Venerable Canon Bough Maltby, Archdeacon of Nottingham, Edward followed his father into the church. Following studies at Keble College, Oxford, he became Curate of Mirfield and subsequently moved to London, building the church of St. Mary, Bermondsey (now the site of Millwall Football Club) at his own expense. He has been mentioned above to explain his symbol stone, which reflected his Anglican Papalism. As well as acting as Superior General to the Catholic League, he set up the Sodality of the Precious Blood, for celibate priests who would recite the Roman office in Latin daily. One colleague recalls him, 'a most saintly priest, [...] of the very extreme type of churchmanship, and sometimes incurred the displeasure of the Bishop but he remained there until his final illness. The Church was built largely by his own

exertions and I think also by grants from the South London Church Fund. Miss Maltby, his sister, was a great help to him. [...] I saw a good deal of him, for his lovable character appealed to me, and at times he would preach at S. Bartholomew's [South Bermondsey]. He was in every sense a true priest'.¹⁴

22. Robin Charles Masfield CBE (1952 – 2025)

///lost.belly.view | Cremation J14

Obituary by Sir Jonathan Phillips, Colleague of Robin in Northern Ireland

Robin spent much of his adult life in Northern Ireland where his contributions to making and sustaining peace during and after The Troubles had lasting significance. After studying anthropology at Cambridge he was the first fast-stream graduate recruited to the newly established Northern Ireland Office in 1973. He retired from the Civil Service as Director General of the Northern Ireland Prison Service in 2010. He also had roles in the Home Office, including the Prison Service in England, and the Cabinet Office, and a secondment to the Government of Hong Kong.

His legacy in Northern Ireland is in three principal areas. First, his perceptive and creative work as secretary to the review of the regulation of contentious parades, chaired by Sir Peter North, following the disorder at Drumcree in the late 1990s. The framework that emerged from that process, an arm's length Parades Commission, is still in place. Second, his contribution as head of the team implementing the new policing arrangements recommended by the Patten Commission following the Good Friday Agreement. He was a key adviser to Prime Minister Tony Blair, helping to ensure that the evolving plans had sufficient cross-community support to proceed. Third, in his final post as Director General of the Northern Ireland Prison Service, he was an energetic, visible and reforming leader at a time of great transition after the prisoner releases flowing from the 1998 Agreement, recognising the need to focus much more attention on ordinary prisoners.

He also had an immense impact outside the office, both in Northern Ireland and, more briefly before his death, in Limpsfield. He described himself as a Community Christian, helping others, individually or collectively, in practical ways, as a trustee of Oxfam Ireland, as a school governor, chair of the residents' association, local history enthusiast, assisting in the formation of a social enterprise offering skills training

for disabled adults, producing local magazines, and improving the local environment. He was also a champion of U3A. If all that were not enough, he was an enthusiastic amateur thespian and runner. And, perhaps reflecting some genetic inheritance from John Masefield, the poet, he authored some ten books on local history and a variety of other topics, including the contribution of Irishmen to colonial governance in East Asia in the nineteenth century.

He was supported in all this by his wife of 44 years, Rosemary. They had three children, Anna, Sarah and Johnny.

23. Rear Admiral Robert Gambier Middleton (1774-1837)

///studio.loans.hype | Block CD18

Middleton was a notable officer in the Royal Navy, recognised for his distinguished service during the Napoleonic Wars. Born in Edinburgh, he entered the Navy at age 12 and was commissioned as a lieutenant on 1 January 1793. Middleton's career advanced rapidly: he commanded the *Flora*, supporting operations under Captain Horatio Nelson off Genoa, and was involved in several successful actions against French and Spanish vessels, capturing numerous enemy ships between 1798 and 1800. Having taken charge of defense on the Kent coast in 1803, when there was the threat of invasion, Middleton later became commissioner of the Navy at Gibraltar in 1805, serving until 1808. He subsequently served as a commissioner on the Navy Board, retiring from his long naval career in 1832.

24. John Martin Marriott (1757-1828)

///noon.pillow.other | Block BD 26

Though Marriott is recorded as having died at his house in St Pancras in 1828, burial at Limpsfield was probably permitted on account of his landholdings in the village. A member of the Glazier's Company in the City of London, he seems to have been dedicated his time to furthering social progress, both through his donation to the Institution for the Cure and Prevention of Contagious Fever in the Metropolis (1803) and his

Fellowship of the Royal Society of Arts, Manufactures and Commerce. And in 1823, he is mentioned at a Steward of the Lying-In Charity for Delivering Poor Married Women at their own Habitations. An extremely active charity, 5733 women were supported to give birth in the previous year. He is also listed as one of the subscribers supporting the publication of Rev. John Rogers Pitman's *Practical Lectures upon the Gospel of St. John* (1821).

25. Brigid O'Hara-Forster (1940-1989)

///tulip.rock.simply | Block NO2

TIME magazine published her moving obituary, quoted below. She is still remembered by Columbia University Graduate School, where she studied, through the scholarship for emerging journalists established in her name.

Losing a member of our work family can be as devastating as losing a blood relative, and that is why so many of us here at TIME wept when we learned last week that Brigid O'Hara-Forster had suddenly died of a brain aneurysm in London. ...

As the [World] section's head researcher for 10 years, she wisely helped guide our coverage of summits, foreign elections, countless Middle East crises and (almost countless) changes in the Kremlin.

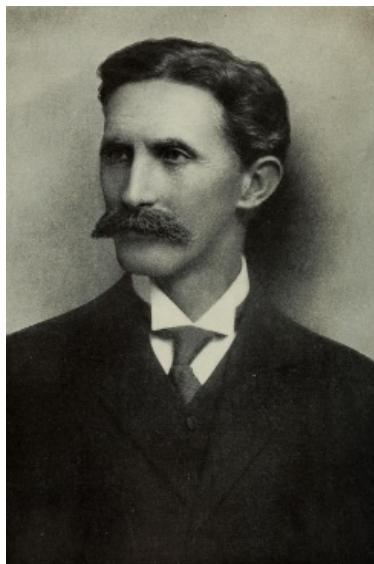
In 1996 Brigid returned to her native Britain to work on the TIME Atlantic edition, and there she truly blossomed, managing the reporters with aplomb while writing on subjects as diverse as Wimbledon and Russian art. But her greatest passion was for friendship, and her greatest pleasure came from conversation with friends, conversation that was full of curiosity about how the world worked and a moral energy about how it should work.

The magazine was very lucky to have had her as a journalist all those years; we were far luckier to have had her as a friend.

26. Sir George Paish (1867-1957)

///rigid.feel.boring | Block BC12

Born in Horsham, Surrey, Sir George Paish was a prominent financial journalist and economist. From relatively modest beginnings, he worked his way to becoming editor of *The Statist*, a statistical journal which supported a more analytical approach to dealing with contemporary social issues. In the 1910s, he was a special adviser to David Lloyd George in his role as Chancellor of the Exchequer. He pioneered economic forecasting and in 1914 took a leading role in the delegation to the United States to secure American financial support for World War One. In the postwar period, he never regained a position of influence, standing three times unsuccessfully for parliament, while publishing extensively on economic matters.



Sir George Paish

[Public Domain]

27. Kay Percy (1913-1989)

///zooms.probe.stoke | Cremation K6

Kay Percy was a prominent local historian and author closely associated with Limpsfield. She is best known for her detailed research about medieval Limpsfield. Percy co-authored several key works, including *Limpsfield Explored: A Guide to the Village and Conservation Area* (1975) and *Limpsfield Revisited: A Guide to the Village and Conservation Area* (1985). Her publications are frequently cited in connection with the historical appraisal of Limpsfield. In her historical analysis, Percy provided

insights into the village's medieval prosperity, attributing it to changes in land management following the Black Death.

A plaque on the wall of the Kiwi House Coffee Shop commemorates her contribution to village life. In addition, a bench under the yew trees in the churchyard commemorates both Kay and her son Warren.

28. Charles John Ridgeway, Bishop of Chichester (1841-1927)

///claim.fork.locals | Block AB4

Ridgeway was an English churchman who served as the Bishop of Chichester from 1908 to 1919. Born into a clerical family, he was educated at St Paul's School and Trinity College, Cambridge. Ordained in 1866, Ridgeway began his ministry as a curate at Christ Church, Tunbridge Wells. Ridgeway was an active freemason and was awarded the honorific rank of Past Grand Chaplain. He served as Dean of Carlisle from 1906 to 1908 until his appointment as Bishop of Chichester.

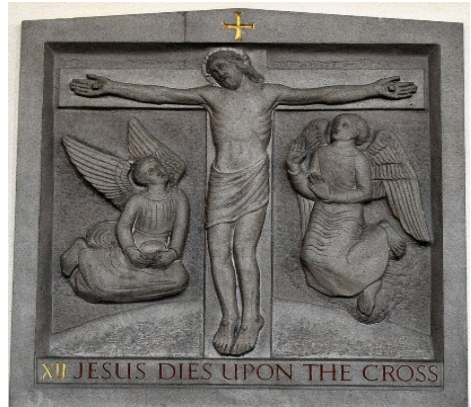
During the First World War, Ridgeway supported soldiers in Sussex and promoted the recruitment of temporary chaplains. He is also remembered for restoring the chapel in the Bishop's Palace at Chichester. One obituary noted, he had '... too much sense of humour ever to take himself heavily, and was too much a man of the world ever to lose his realism'.

29. Freda Nellie Skinner (1911–1993)

///rock.held.porch | Block ME8

Born in Limpsfield, Skinner became an influential British sculptor, woodcarver, and educator. Her studies with Henry Moore and Alan Durst at the Royal College of Art were supported by neighbours who recognised her potential; these benefactors included Arthur Rackham, Lewis Fry, Ethel and Sybil Pye. She later taught at the Wimbledon College of Art for over two decades, where her students included the sculptor, William Pye. Her manual, *Wood Carving*

(1961) became the standard introduction to this art form. Her own work lives on in numerous sculptures, both ecclesiastical art and work for the Barbican Centre, London. She frequently exhibited at major venues, including the Royal Academy of Arts Summer Exhibition. The gravestone bears a sculpture of angels which is clearly in her style.



*Freda Nellie Skinner, Station of the Cross,
St John the Divine, Richmond, Surrey*

Photo by Andy Scott licenced CC BY-SA 4.0

30. Admiral Sir William Rudolph Slayter (1896-1971)

///riders.recent.dome | Block LE12a

Slayter was a distinguished British-American Admiral in the Royal Navy, known for his service in both World Wars and his leadership in key naval commands. Born in Chicago, Slayter moved with his family to Surrey in the early 1900s. He entered the Royal Naval College, Osborne, as a cadet in 1909, beginning a career that would span nearly four decades.

He joined the Royal Navy as a sub-lieutenant in 1916 during the First World War and survived the loss of HMS Queen Mary at the Battle of

Jutland. His interwar and Second World War service included roles as Deputy Director and Director of Naval Ordnance, and as Chief of Staff to the Home Fleet. After the war, Slayter became Captain of the Gunnery School at Portsmouth, and ultimately Commander-in-Chief of the East Indies Station, before retiring in 1954. He had been promoted to Admiral and became a Knight Commander of the Order of the Bath in 1952.

31. Rev Charles Steer (1880-1959)

///lost.belly.view | Cremation A4

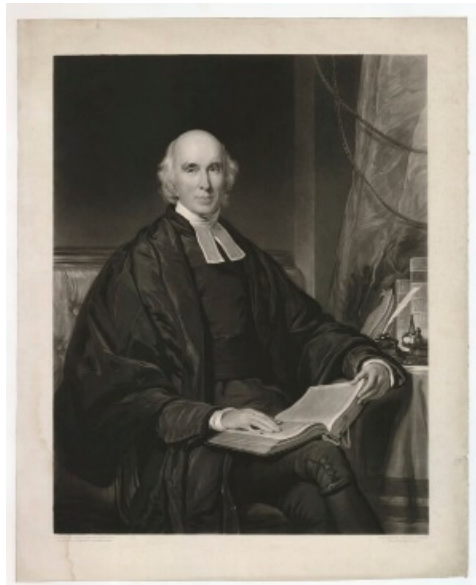
Steer was an Anglican clergyman, who became Rector of Limpsfield in 1928. Educated at Winchester College and New College, Oxford, he was deeply influenced by the social and religious work at Oxford House, Bethnal Green, where he spent much of his early career gaining hands-on experience in parish ministry. After a year at Cuddesdon Theological College, he was ordained deacon in 1905 to the curacy of St. Edward's, Romford, Essex, under Rev. R. H. Whitcombe, who would later become his father-in-law.

In 1909 he became Vicar of St. John the Divine, Randfontein, in the Pretoria Diocese, South Africa. During World War One, he volunteered as a chaplain with the South African Medical Corps, later serving with the 9th South African Force, and was awarded the Military Cross for his service at the Third Battle of Ypres. After the war, Steer held posts at Hornchurch, Essex and Chaplain of St George's Cathedral in Jerusalem, before his appointment as Rector of Limpsfield. His letters to the Limpsfield parish show him as a thoughtful and generous priest. It was during his tenure that the reburial of Frederick Delius took place in the churchyard. After his retirement in 1950, he returned briefly to Africa and then lived in Charmouth, Dorset. He was clearly sufficiently attached to Limpsfield to choose it as his final resting place.

32. Rev James Haldane Stewart (1776-1854)

///lance.shrimp.acted | Block CC15

Stewart was a prominent British Anglican clergyman, evangelical leader, and advocate for missionary work. Born in North America, he was educated at Eton College and entered Lincoln's Inn to study law. After an evangelical conversion experience, he resolved to enter the church, graduating from Exeter College, Oxford in 1806 and being ordained deacon in the same year.



Rev James Haldane Stewart

© National Portrait Gallery, London

Stewart was a strong supporter of missionary societies, including the controversial London Society for Promoting Christianity

Amongst the Jews, the Church Missionary Society, and the Protestant Reformation Society. He became the founding minister of St Bride's Church, Liverpool, in 1830, where he established a strong evangelical presence. In 1846, Stewart became Rector of Limpsfield, where he continued his ministry until his death in 1854. The children from his marriage with Mary Dale included Rev. James Haldane Stewart (sometime curate at Limpsfield) and Rev. David Dale Stewart. The latter wrote a biography of his father *Memoir of the Life of the Rev. James Haldane Stewart, M.A., Late Rector of Limpsfield Surrey*, published in 1857.

33. Major General Douglas Stuart (1895-1955)

///tune.same.barks | Cremation C5

Major General Stuart was an officer in the British Indian Army from 1917 until 1948. He served first in the Great War with the Canadian Armed Forces, before transferring to the Indian Army. During the Second World War, he served as a battalion commander, Brigadier General Staff, and divisional commander. It was his role in the Bengal famine relief operation in 1943 as an area commander that was perhaps the most significant aspect of his career. He lived at Comforts Farm, Hurst Green.

34. Thomas Anthony Teulon (1764-1844)

Among those buried in the Teulon vault adjoining the south wall in Limpsfield churchyard and commemorated with a monument in the church is Thomas Anthony Teulon of Tenchleys Park, a wine merchant who was prominent in nonconformist circles in London. Of Huguenot descent, Teulon married Rachel Hensman at Christ Church, Newgate, in 1791 and had eleven children. While in business in London in the 1790s, Teulon became an elder of a universalist chapel and sold publications that promoted universalist beliefs. He wrote poems and essays about religious themes which survive in manuscript form in the library of the Huguenot Society. In 1821, he published an abridgement of John Parkhurst's Hebrew lexicon and grammar and an exposition of the Book of Revelation (*Prophecy Illustrated*). By this time, he was living with his family in Limpsfield, having inherited a portion of the Tenchleys estate. He later commissioned a cousin, the architect Samuel Sanders Teulon, to build a new house in an idiosyncratic style in the 1830s. Teulon died suddenly on 9 July 1844, having collapsed in a railway carriage and been carried to a Southwark inn. Descendants continued to live at Tenchleys until the death of his granddaughter Helena Stallybrass in 1931.

35. Sir John Arthur Thomson (1861-1933)

///danger.hours.scenes | Block BD11

Sir John Arthur Thomson was a distinguished Scottish naturalist, writer, and academic, renowned for his efforts to popularise biology and reconcile science with religion. Born in East Lothian, he graduated with an MA from the University of Edinburgh in 1880 and initially intended to train for ordination. After study in Germany and France, he returned to Edinburgh to lecture in zoology and botany. In 1899, he became Regius Professor of Natural History at the University of Aberdeen, a post he held for around thirty years. He was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh in 1887 and knighted in 1930 for his contributions to science and education.

Thomson was also known for his holistic approach to biology, promoting notions of symbiosis; he advocated a rapprochement between science and the arts, as well as engaging with philosophical and religious questions. He died at his home, St Mary's Lodge in Limpsfield, in 1933 and was survived by his wife Margaret and four children, some of whom also made significant scientific contributions.

36. George Nugent Merle Tyrrell (1879–1952)

///skip.fallen.enjoy | Block BC22

Having gained degrees in physics and mathematics from London University, Tyrrell worked alongside Guglielmo Marconi, helping to demonstrate the potential of radio. In later life, he turned much of his attention to psychical research, joining the Society for Psychical Research in 1908 and eventually serving as its president. He conducted groundbreaking experiments in telepathy and clairvoyance, advancing the theory that ghosts are hallucinations generated by the subconscious. In his book, *Apparitions* (1943), he coined the term 'out-of-body experience'.

37. Sir Laming Worthington-Evans, First Baronet (1868-1931)

///thing.finishing.themes | Block AB3

Sir Laming Worthington-Evans was a prominent British Conservative politician and statesman. Born in London, he was educated at Eastbourne College and entered politics after a successful career as a solicitor, having been head of Worthington Evans, Dauney & Co. He first entered Parliament as the Member for Colchester in 1910 and served in that capacity until 1929, when he was elected for the St George's Division of Westminster. He was involved in a significant reform of company law.



Sir Laming Worthington-Evans, First Baronet

© National Portrait Gallery, London

Worthington-Evans held several senior government posts, playing an important role in military administration during World War One. In the 1920s, he was part of Lloyd George's inner circle and took part in negotiations regarding post-war German reparations and Irish independence. He also served as Secretary of State for War, Minister of Pensions and Postmaster General at various times, contributing significantly to British public life. The *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography* suggests that his advancement was impeded by 'his lack of public-school and university education, [which] suggested an air of unpolished vulgarity which created disdain in some quarters within the party'. He maintained a home in Limpsfield, though he died at his residence at Eaton Place in 1931.

Those who Died in Conflict



War Memorial, Limpsfield Churchyard

© Graham Dixon

was never realised. Their names are listed on several village War Memorials, in both the churchyard and church, in addition to those at the British Legion and Memorial Stores. The churchyard also contains a number of Commonwealth War Graves.

Aside from the career soldiers whose lives are described in detail above, the major conflicts of the twentieth century involved many Limpsfield residents from all social backgrounds, many of whom will have had no military ambition at all. Some had barely finished school when tragically they were caught up in the horrors of war. Sadly, but tellingly, many of these never lived long enough to generate a substantial biography, such as those we have read above. That said, the limpsfield.org.uk website extensively documents what can be known about these young men, whose potential

The churchyard War Memorial, for which a faculty was granted in 1921, comprises a crucifix (replacing the original) set above a plinth with 58 names from the First World War and a commemorative inscription.¹⁵ Designed by W.A. Forsyth, it occupies a prominent position next to the path leading to the South Porch. The inscription reads:

In proud and grateful memory of the Limpsfield men who laid down their lives for God and King and Country in the Great War 1914-1918. This constant reminder of the greatest sacrifice of all is erected by those who loved them. Their name liveth for evermore. Also to the memory of those who gave their lives in the war 1939-1945 whose names are inscribed on the memorial in this church.

The casualties from the Second World War, 42 names, are remembered on the tablet in the church itself.

The lists below give the names of those who are commemorated in the churchyard itself, either by a Commonwealth War Grave (CWG) or on the memorial of another family member.

WORLD WAR ONE

CWG: Second Lieutenant Clive Maxwell Bailey (age not given)
Royal Flying Corps, Died 3 August 1917

Alan Brodie Hoare (age 35)
Loyal North Lancashire Regiment, Died 26 October 1917.
Commemorated on his parents' gravestone.

CWG: Private George Cook (age not given)
The Queen's (Royal West Surrey Regiment) 8th Battalion, Died 8 October 1915

CWG: Stoker Sydney Crittell (age 18)
Royal Navy, H.M.S. Pembroke, Died 25 October 1918

CWG: Captain Cyril Nutcombe Davies (age 32)
Royal Engineers, Died 1 March 1919

The death of Cyril Nutcombe Davies (1 March 1919) is commemorated with an inscription fixed to a natural piece of stone, 'Tell England ye who pass this monument that I who died for her rest here content'.

Following war service, Davies passed away in the Bangour War Hospital in Edinburgh. The probate record gives his address as Modderfontein B Gold Mine in South Africa. The stone came from the Matobo Hills, Zimbabwe.



*Stone commemorating Cyril Nutcombe
Davies*

© Graham Dixon

Leonard Montague Greenwood MC (and bar), DSO (age 25)
Durham Light Infantry, Died 17 October 1918.
Commemorated on his parents' gravestone, he is buried in Rouen.

CWG: Stoker John Jarrett (age not given)
Royal Navy, H.M.S. Pembroke, Died 22 October 1918

CWG: Private William Henry Shore (age not given)
Army Service Corps, 1st/1st South Eastern Mounted Transport and
Supply Column, Died 3 June 1915

CWG: Air Mechanic Henry Smith (age 34)
Royal Flying Corps, Died 4 June 1916

Lieutenant Geoffrey St. George Shillington Cather VC (1890-1916)

As a former student of Hazelwood School, he is commemorated on the War Memorial. He continued his education at Rugby, leaving on his father's death to work for his father's company, Joseph Tetley & Co. When war was declared he enlisted in the British Army Artists Rifles. After transfer to the 9th Battalion, Royal Irish Fusiliers, he was sent to the Western Front in October 1915. He was killed in July 1916, and the location of his remains are unknown. His VC citation reads as follows:

For most conspicuous bravery. From 7 p.m. till midnight he searched 'No Man's Land', and brought in three wounded men. Next morning at 8 a.m. he continued his search, brought in another wounded man, and gave water to others, arranging for their rescue later. Finally, at 10.30 a.m., he took out water to another man, and was proceeding further on when he was himself killed. All this was carried out in full view of the enemy, and under direct machine gun fire and intermittent artillery fire. He set a splendid example of courage and self sacrifice.

WORLD WAR TWO

CWG: Squadron Leader Glyn Ashfield (age 30) - Distinguished Flying Cross, Air Force Cross
Royal Air Force 157 Squadron, Died 12 December 1942

CWG: Sergeant John Ferguson (age 20)
Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, Died 10 October 1942

Able Seaman Kenneth Alan Habgood (age 19)
Royal Navy, H.M.S. Itchen, Died 23 October 1943

Commemorated on a plaque attached to a tree on the footpath which runs through the churchyard.

CWG: Sergeant Alan Jarrett (age 19)

Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, Died 27 October 1941

CWG: Private Sydney Tom Owens (age 35)

Pioneer Corps, Died 1 November 1942

CWG: Private William James Park (age not given)

Distinguished Conduct Medal

Seaforth Highlanders of Canada, Died 2 July 1944

CWG: Lance Corporal Matthew Thompson (age 40)

Seaforth Highlanders of Canada, Died 10 December 1940

CWG: Major John Irving Vallance (age 42)

Royal Artillery 1 Heavy Regiment, Died 18 March 1940

*They went with songs to the battle, they were young,
Straight of limb, true of eye, steady and aglow.
They were staunch to the end against odds uncounted;
They fell with their faces to the foe.*

*They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them.*

From Laurence Binyon, *For the Fallen* (1914)

Conclusion

The village churchyard stands as a tangible record of hundreds of years of Limpsfield life. Its stones, some weathered and barely legible, together with others more recent, mark the passing of generations and the changes that have shaped this community. Each name, each grave represents village lives lived through times of peace and conflict, prosperity and hardship. These graves, worn by time and weather, mark the lives of farmers and clergy, soldiers and children, the known and the nameless—each played their part in the long story of this place.

Over the centuries, the churchyard has changed in all sorts of ways, and it is continually being recast. New graves and memorials appear, old stones have shifted or sunk, and the surrounding trees and plants have grown and receded. Yet, the essential character of the place remains. The past is always present, not only in the monuments and epitaphs but in the very arrangement of the ground and the continuity of this area within the village as a place of remembrance.

The churchyard continues to serve as a record of those who lived in this ancient village. It is a place where we both honour the departed and uphold a sense of community. It is also a reminder that we are part of a longer human thread across the generations. Limpsfield churchyard is both an archive and a living, evolving landscape. Those who lived here already have left their mark, and those yet to come will in their turn leave their imprint.

NOTES

¹ I am grateful to Matthew Spencer for his advice concerning the intricacies of seventeenth-century English Latin.

² A. Heales, 'Limpsfield Church', *Journal of the Surrey Archaeological Society*, 4 (1869), pp.238-52: 246-47.

³ British Library Maps K.Top.41.3.

⁴ D. Thompson (ed.), *Extracts from the Rectors' Book, Limpsfield* (London and Maidstone: Alabaster, Passmore and Sons, 1949), p.15.

⁵ *Constitutions and Canons Ecclesiastical ... Agreed upon with the Kings Majesties Licence in their Synod begun at London, Anno Dom 1603.* (London: Assigns of John Bill Deceas'd etc., 1684), p.43

⁶ Obituary in *The London Naturalist*, 11 (1932), pp.35-36.

⁷ *The European Magazine and London Review...* (1787), p.139.

⁸ D. Thompson (ed.), *Extracts from the Rectors' Book, Limpsfield* (London and Maidstone: Alabaster, Passmore and Sons, 1949), p.16.

⁹ I am grateful to Dr Nicholas Dixon for supplying this biography based on his research regarding Elias the Prophet and his identification of this figure as Robert Atkinson.

¹⁰ W.L. King, *A Genealogical Record of the Families of King and Henham, In the County of Kent.* (London: Mitchell and Hughes, 1899) p.9.

¹¹ <https://limpsfieldsurrey.com/2025/06/09/trevareux-the-house-they-cannot-spell/> (Accessed 6 August 2025)

¹² W.L. King, *A Genealogical Record of the Families of King and Henham, In the County of Kent.* (London: Mitchell and Hughes, 1899) pp.9-10.

¹³ Dermott Thompson (ed.), *Extracts from the Rectors' Book, Limpsfield* (London and Maidstone: Alabaster, Passmore and Sons, 1949), p.12.

¹⁴ L. E. A. Ehrmann, *Twist of the Collar ... Being Memoirs of one abandoning Commerce for the Ministry* (Sittingbourne: W.S. Parrett, 1949), p.20.

¹⁵ See <https://www.iwm.org.uk/memorials/item/memorial/64533> for the complete list of names.

APPENDIX ONE

Brief notes on Musicians

For more detailed information, please consult the separate booklet.

Limpsfield churchyard became the unexpected resting place for some of the twentieth century's most prominent musicians, largely due to the Harrison family's connection with composer Frederick Delius (1862-1934). Beatrice Harrison (1892-1965), a renowned cellist remembered for her 1924 BBC broadcast accompanied by nightingales, and her sister May (1890-1959), a violinist, impressed Delius with their performances. Their friendship led to Delius's burial in Limpsfield, despite his never having visited the village. He died in France in 1934 and was reinterred in Limpsfield the following year; music at his funeral was provided by conductor Sir Thomas Beecham (1879-1961) and musicians from the London Philharmonic Orchestra.

Delius's wife Jelka (1868-1935), a distinguished artist and friend of Cézanne and Rodin, died shortly after and was buried beside him. Sir Thomas Beecham, who championed Delius's music and founded both the London and Royal Philharmonic Orchestras, was also reburied in Limpsfield in 1990. His widow requested the move due to the threatened destruction of his original grave at Brookwood. Though Beecham had no direct connection with Limpsfield, his stepson's links to the village legitimated the decision.

Nearby lies Jack Brymer (1915-2003), clarinettist and principal of the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, invited by Beecham in 1947. Brymer, who also played with the BBC and London Symphony Orchestras, taught widely and retired to Oxted.

Eileen Joyce (1912-1991), the Australian-born pianist who famously performed Rachmaninoff's Second Concerto for the soundtrack of the film *Brief Encounter*, lived on Limpsfield High Street.

Norman Del Mar (1920-1994), conductor, was associated with the Royal Philharmonic from an early date. An expert on Strauss, he died in Hertfordshire; his burial in Limpsfield is certainly due to the Beecham connection, since there is no family connection with the village.

Denis Stevens (1922-2004), a Monteverdi scholar and sometime BBC producer, is commemorated with a plaque in the churchyard; despite spending much of his career in the United States, he returned to the UK in retirement.

The Harrison sisters—Beatrice, May, Margaret (a violinist and founder of Sanctuary Kennels), and Monica (a singer)—are all buried at Limpsfield, along with their parents.

All these musicians are commemorated in the church's stained-glass Musicians' Window, dedicated in 2007 to St Cecilia, patron saint of music.

APPENDIX TWO

Instructions from the Rector, Robert Mayne to the Parish Clerk, June 1839

[To] Mr Richard Ridley, Clerk of the Parish of Limpsfield

You are to observe the following directions when any matters occur in my absence to which they relate. That permission is not to be given to any person to make a Vault or to Brick Graves unless they engage to have the same arch'd over with brick work, and the entrance properly clos'd with Brick and Mortar, not is any Brick grave or Vault to be made within such a Distance of the Foundation walls of the Church, as may endanger their strength. You are not to suffer any person to put up a Monument, Hatchment or any kind of fixture to the walls of the Church either on the inside or on the outside, without my permission being previously obtained and by Letter should I be from home. The following fees are to be demanded and either received or promised before anything is done. For making a Brick grave in the Church the width and length of one Coffin Five Guineas and for every Corpse buried in it afterwards Five Guineas and Two to the Clerk Independent of any usual Fee in the parish if there be such. For making a Vault in the Church the width of two Coffins and the length of one Ten Guineas and if larger much more in proportion to its size. For every Corpse buried in the same Five Guineas and Two to the Clerk Independent of any customary Fee in the parish, if there be such. For every Monument affixed in the Walls of the Church either on the Inside or on the Outside Five Guineas and One to the Clerk.

If the Monument is larger than the usual size, a greater Fee will be demanded. For every Hatchment put up in the church, a Fee must be paid.

In the Church Yard

For a Brick Grave the Length and Width of one Coffin, Two Guineas, and Half a Guinea the Clerk. Opening the same One Guinea Half a Guinea the Clerk. For a Vault the Length of one Coffin and Width of Two Five Guineas. If larger more in proportion to its size, and one Guinea the Clerk. For opening the same Two Guineas & one Guinea to the Clerk. For a Tomb the size of the Vault, Five Guineas. If larger and wider more in Proportion to the size of the Enclosure and One Guinea to the Clerk. For a Flat Grave stone Two Guineas & Five shillings the Clerk. For a Head and Foot Stone one Guinea and s2 6d Clerk. If the Ground between them be covered over with Brick or Stone, a Guinea more. For a Wooden Rail, Half a Guinea and Two and Sixpence the Clerk.

For Churching Minister	1s		
Publishing of Banns [Minister]	1s	Clerk	6d
Marriage by Banns [Minister]	5s	Clerk	2s 6d
Marriage by License [Minister]	10s	Clerk	5s
Burials [Minister]	1s		
Burial of Strangers in the Earth	2s		

Breaking the ground for any one out of the parish for a common Grave 6s 8d – or more according to circumstances. Double Fee for the Clerk. And double Fee to be always taken for People out of the Parish.

Limpsfield June 10/[18]39

Rev.d Mayne

Tolling the Bell for a Corpse not Buried in the Parish 2s 6d. Tolling the Bell at the time of Death and when buried out of the Parish 5s. Sacrament Bread 6s per time. Burial of a Still born Child 1/-. Clerk fees for Graves Common depth and more. Common depth (that is) 4 feet.

LOCATION OF BLOCKS IN THE LIMPSFIELD CHURCHYARD

