

Luddesdowne Churchyard Plan: Notes

Churchyard plan version: updated March 2015

1. This plan with list of burials was compiled by Paul Lee in the summer and autumn of 2013, based on a survey of marked burials in the churchyard checked against other sources (detailed below). Burial plot numbers on the plan correspond with entries in the associated spreadsheet.
2. The Garden of Remembrance is excluded here as it has a separate plan.
3. This is not a transcription of churchyard monumental inscriptions. This information is available elsewhere. It is a record of which burial plots are occupied by which burials where this information is available. In order to make the task more manageable, information given has largely been restricted to name and death or burial date even if more information than this is available elsewhere.
4. For reasons of time, this plan has mostly not been checked against entries in burial registers (this has been done for some burials since the 1920s). The data given for most entries is therefore the date of death as recorded on the gravestone where this exists.
5. The plan indicates where a headstone, cross or grave slab is present (as at 2015). Many plots have never been marked and are only known from the 1879 plan which was apparently compiled as and when burials occurred up to the 1960s (see below). Several gravestones which existed in 1921 and 1976 are no longer extant (2015).
6. Sources of information (in addition to 2013 survey):
 - i) **1879 church churchyard plan: Strood Archives P235/28/27**
Heading: "Addition to yard of Parish Church of Luddesdown, Kent, 1879"
This is a plan of the 1879 extension to Luddesdown churchyard, i.e. the area to the east of the low brick ridge (removed from the top of the former churchyard wall). This is an accurate (8 inches to an inch) scale plan of burials, kept up to date by various hands up to the late 1950s (the grave of William Richard Morris d. 13.2.1960 is marked as "Vacant" at this stage). It was placed into the archives in the early 1960s. This plan is the only source of information for unmarked graves between 1879 and 1960 in this area. Unfortunately it only records names and not dates. Cross-referencing with burial registers would provide dates.
 - ii) **1921 transcription of gravestones by Leland L Duncan with pencil sketch plan**
This can be found on the Kent Archaeological Society website:
<http://www.kentarchaeology.org.uk/Research/Libr/MIs/MIsLuddesdown/01.htm>
This plan with transcriptions covers the old churchyard area and just four graves in the 1879 extension. The plan is a rough pencil sketch and not to scale. The transcriptions supply valuable information no longer legible on many gravestones. Indeed, a handful of gravestones no longer exist in 2015.
 - iii) **1975 record of headstones with churchyard plan (kept in church safe)**
This survey was carried out in 1975 by Arthur Pike of Meopham, and typed up in 1976 by Eily J Bassett of Henley Street, Luddesdown. This plan with transcriptions covers the entire churchyard (as at 1975) and obviously only records marked graves. It provides a useful comparison with the 1921 transcriptions for older graves where inscriptions are partly eligible. The plan is not to scale.
 - iv) **Late 19th-century transcription of some older graves (kept in church safe)**
This unsigned, undated and incomplete transcription seems to be in the hand of Miss Eleanor Wigan, daughter of the Victorian rector.
 - v) Some burial register entries from the 1920s onwards
 - vi) First-hand knowledge of unmarked recent burials of ashes

