

How and why has the style of grave decoration and ornamentation varied between the 19th and 21st centuries at St Peter's Church in Lampeter?

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Introduction to Fieldwork (HPAR4003)

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Introduction 3

Methodology 4

Results 6

Conclusion and Recommendations 12

- Conclusion 12
- Recommendations 12

References 13

Appendix 14

Introduction

St. Peter's Church can be found at the heart of the Mid-Western Welsh countryside, in a small village called Lampeter. The grid reference for this church is 575 483(digimaps.edina.ac.uk). This church was built between 1867 and 1870, in order to replace a previous version from 1822 that was initially built to replace an even older version of the church from the 1290s. It is still clear to this day as to where the oldest form of St. Peter's stood, as there is a noticeable border of graves, flatter land and trees surrounding the previous site. In the grounds of this current church, a large quantity of graves can be found, ranging from late 18th century burials all the way to modern times, and graves are still being added there today. However, it is also apparent that there is a large variation between both the styles and the ornamentation of the headstones. It is clear that these ornamentations had clear phases and trends, as many of the same styles can be found from the same time. The key trends of these graves vary from mass Pauper graves to simple celtic or christian crosses, from family burials with distinct boundaries to urns and cleopatra needles to the more well-known curved headstone of modern times. However, there are many different possibilities as to why these styles grew in and out of fashion, and these will be discussed in this report.

Methodology

I initially visited St Peter's Church on Wednesday the 10th October, 2018 in order to take the photographs that I needed in order to write this report. I chose this day in particular as it would then allow me enough time to efficently write my report, but also because the weather was very sunny, meaning the visibility of my pictures would be much better as opposed to if I did my primary research on a cloudy day. However, prior to this visit I was unsure of what exactly I was going to write my report on. I decided to base my report off of ornamentation and style of the graves after walking around the grounds for a while, as I felt that it would allow me to explore many different styles of headstone, and will allow me to figure out why the trends in different styles occured. I decided to base my report on roughly 60 graves as I feel that this number will allow me to achieve an accurate idea on the trends of ornamentations, but also allows me to write about each noticeable grave in the right amount of detail. However, after looking at the photos I took, I have noticed how some of the pictures of the graves I took note of are illegible due to poor photo quality or shrubbery being in the way of the dates on the graves. However, due to me using the sample size I decided to use, me being unable to use these photos still wouldn't effect my results significantly enough. Whilst I was taking my pictures, I was also taking note of the position of the grave that I was focussing on, as where the grave is located could be a reason as to why it'Another way in which this method of noting the placement of the graves can be useful is if I needed to revisit the church later on to finalise my findings, such as I did with dating Grave 17, as seen in Figure 2. Also, when I was carrying out my primary research, I ensured that I obtained evidence from all aspects of the graveyard. I did this as I know that graves towards the Northern side of the church are more modern, therfore allowing me to have a idea on modern trends in grave headstones, enabling me to be able to compare these trends to past trends too.

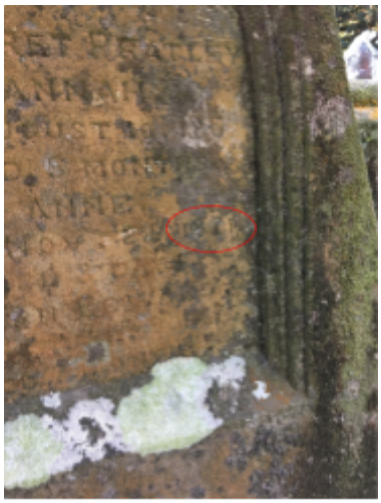


Figure 2: Grave 17 date, circled in red.

Results

After carrying out all of my primary research, I came across a variety of conclusions. For example, it is quite clear from the map in my Appendix that there is a large quantity of Paupers graves towards the south end of the church grounds, each with a specific number. The earliest number that can be found on a grave in this area is 4 (as seen in Figure 3), whilst the latest number is 1420 (as seen in Figure 4). However, it is worth noting how these graves only have the initials of the person buried there, as this is the only information that the person who wrote these graves could come across. It is also clear that the graves in this area are represented by a footstone as opposed to a headstone. This was due to the people being buried in this area being very poor, so they were unable to afford a headstone to represent their life after death. This is also why there are so many footstones in this area, as Pauper graves tended to hold thousands of people at once, so the footstones are used to represent the person, rather than being placed at the top of the buried body.



Figure 3: Grave 1



Figure 4: Grave 2

Another type of ornamentation that I found has been very popular throughout the years is a Christian cross-shaped grave. For example, the earliest version of this type of grave that I found was from 1833 (Figure 5), whilst the latest has been from 1967 (Figure 6). This clearly shows that this style of grave has been concurrent since the early 19th century, which shows how important the Christianity religion has been for people through the years, as the cross is a key

aspect of that religion. However, not as many people are having cross-shaped graves in recent years, as mass grave production improved drastically since the Second World War, meaning that customised graves have become more expensive and- thus- less common.



Figure 5: Grave 32



Figure 6: Grave 61

Another cross style of headstone that is apparent in this time period is that based off of a Celtic Cross. The earlies form of this style is from 1851 (Figure 7), whilst the most recent is from 2010 (Figure 8). This clearly shows how popular this style of ornamentation is, as it has remained popular right up to almost 10 years ago. Also, the fact that there is a grave as recent as 2010 that uses this style clearly shows the importance of the Celtic symbolism, as customised graves are more expensive in recent times, as previously mentioned.



Figure 7: Grave 19



Figure 8: Grave 21

Another very common style of grave that I found at St. Peter's are family graves, mostly featuring either a rock or sometimes marble border around the burial site. This was very common throughout the years, with the earliest record I found being from 1883 (Figure 9), whilst the most recent addition to one of these graves is 2013 (Figure 10). This is a very common style of grave, as a large number of families want to be buried together, allowing the souls to be together in life after death. This also explains why the borders are common too, as the family buried at that particular site don't want people they don't know being within a certain vicinity of the family. The size of these borders varies too, as some family graves have around 40 people mentioned. These borders also appear to be made out of various materials, such as either stone or marble. This also shows the wealth of some of the families, as marble is more expenisve than stone, so families with graves that feature marble borders (such as the grave in Figure 9) most probably had more prestige than families with stone borders.



Figure 9: Grave 40



Figure 10: Grave 54

Another variation of family burials that I found are ones that feature a pillar as opposed to a simple headstone. The earliest grave I found with this style is 1820 (Figure 11), whilst the latest I found was from 1930 (Figure 12). This clearly shows that this style of headstone is popular and may show some prestige of the family, as a pillar headstone would be more expensive than a simple headstone.



Figure 11: Grave 42



Figure 12: Grave 39

Another style of ornamentation that I found was popular during this time period is a Cleopatra Needle atop of the grave. This could possibly signify the person being interested in travelling, as the Cleopatra needle was found in Egypt. Nonetheless, it was still very popular for a short while,

as the earliest grave I found with this headstone is from 1878 (as seen in Figure 13), whilst the latest is only 40 years later, in 1935 (as seen in Figure 14). However, despite it's short popularity, it still represents prestige as the person must have been wealthy enough to travel to exotic countries such as Egypt, or must have atleast some prestige to keep up to date with trends from these countries.



Figure 13: Grave 29



Figure 14: Grave 28

The final piece of ornamentation that I found was quite popular on graves at St. Peter's Church is an urn, whether that it partly-shrouded or completely uncovered. The urn represents the reseblance of a body being found below the urn, as opposed to holding the ashes of the cremated person, like urns are commonly used for. Firstly, partly-shrouded urns rose to popularity in the Victorian period, as a rebel against the modesty of fully-shrouded urns. The earliest type of this ornamentation comes from 1820 (Figure 11) and the latest comes from 1930 (Figure 12). Unlike partly-shrouded urns, fully uncovered urns were popular from the mid-19th century to the mid-20th century. This is clear as the earliest style of uncovered urn I found is from 1867 (Figure 15), whilst the latest is 1942 (Figure 16), and the uncovered urn could also represent travelling, as the shape of some is similar to the shape of Greek amphorae, also showing the person being up-to-date with exotic styles.



Figure 15: Grave 9



Figure 16: Grave 51

As previously mentioned, after the second world war- since around the 1950s- graves became widely produced in factories, which meant that alot of modern graves are similar as they are more affordable than heavily customised graves. In modern times, grave headstones normally only feature the name, age and year of death of the person. They could also feature some family of the person, who were buried at a later date, as seen in Figure 17. They can feature some customised engravements, such as quotes or places the person lived at, but these are different for each grave.



Figure 17: Grave 55

Conclusion and Recommendations

Conclusion

I am rather pleased with the findings that I got at the end of this survey, as I feel that I have a good variety of graves, and I have managed to answered my question well. After looking at the primary evidence that I took at St. Peter's Church, it is quite clear that there are distinct trends in both the style and ornamentation of graves throughout the 19th century to the 21st century. It is also clear that there are various reasons as to why these trends occured. For example, the trend in using icons such as Cleopatra's Needle or both uncovered and partly-shrouded Urns was due to the person or family being very interested in travelling or the wider world, so much as to use the icons to be remembered by- as these icons are based off of objects found at exotic, historic countries with a rich history, meaning people would want others to associate them with these countries. A key turning point that clearly effects some people wanting to be associated with a country is Howard Carter discovering Tutankhamun's Tomb in 1922. This is clear in Grave 28 (Figure 14), which features an Egyptian Cleopatra's Needle merely 13 years after this discovery. Another key turning point that would effect grave styles is the end of the Second World War, as previously mentioned. This was a turning point as graves began being made in great quantities, meaning that the style was simple and many people had the same type of headstone for their grave after 1950, such as Grave 55 in Figure 17.

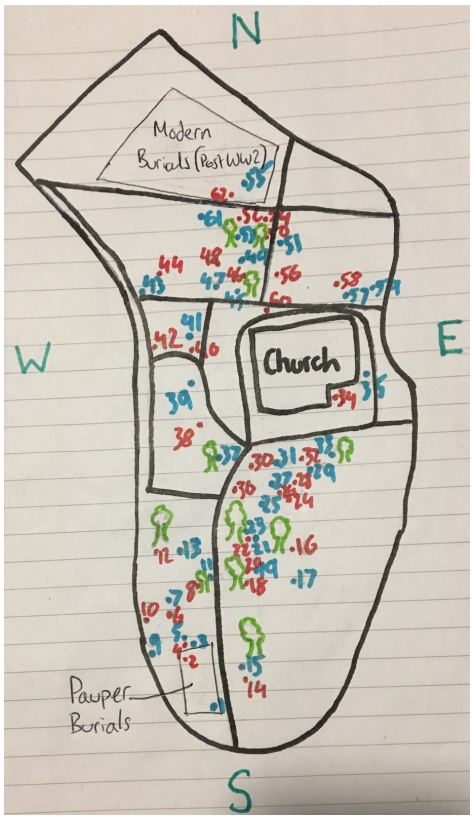
Recommendations

If I were to do this project again, there are a few changes I would make. For example, I would firstly ensure that all the pictures I take of graves are legible at the graveyard, rather than checking when I got back home, only to find that I need to return to the graveyard at a later date to retake a picture. This would decrease the time it would take me to gather my primary evidence, meaning I would have more time to work on writing my report. I feel that this would make the content of my report improve overall. Another change I would make would be to only focus on one style of ornamentation in detail, as opposed to looking at a variety in a smaller amount of detail. However, if this were to be done, then the sample size I would look at would be shorter, therefore not allowing me to answer my question effectively.

References

Digimap.edina.ac.uk. (2018). *Digimap*. [online] Available at: https://digimap.edina.ac.uk/ [Accessed 17 Oct. 2018].

Appendix



Grave Write-Ups

1 In Pauper Grave, 4, MJ
2 Last Pauper Grave, 1920, HR
3 Family Grave w/ Border 1984, 2002
4 Family Grave w/ Border 1900
5 Family Grave w/ Border 1939, 1950
6 Family Grave w/o Border 1936, 1942
7 Cleopatra Needle, can't see date
8 Family Pillar w/Uncovered Urn 1902, 1906
9 Family Pillar w/Uncovered Urn 1867, 1915
10 Christian Cross 1908
11 Pillar w/ Partly-Shrouded Urn 1900
12 Family Cleopatra Needle w/ Border 1853, 1966
13 Family Christian Cross w/ Plot 1877, 1887
14 Family Christian Cross w/ Border 1919, 1933
15 Family Grave w/ Border 1915-1986
16 Illegible
17 Family Celtic Cross 1853, 1871
18 Celtic Cross 1925
19 Celtic Cross 1851
20 Family Rounded Cross 1842, 1846
21 Celtic Cross 2010
22 Pauper Footstone, AE
23 Pauper Footstone, ET
24 Pillar w/ Partly-Shrouded Urn and Iron Fence Border 1876
25 Christian Cross, Can't See Date
26 Celtic Cross 1922
27 Family Pillar w/ Uncovered Urn 1889, 1887
28 Cleopatra Needle 1935
29 Cleopatra Needle 1878
30 Family Cleopatra Needle 1891-1916
31 Christian Cross 1878
32 Christian Cross 1833
33 Celtic Cross 1901
34 Headstone w/ Marble Sarcophagus 1873
35 Family Cleopatra Needle 1894, 1898
36 Family Christian Cross w/ Border 1891-1917
37 Family Pillar w/ Partly-Shrouded Urn 1875
38 Celtic Cross, Can't See Date
39 Family Pillar w/ Partly-Shrouded Urn 1896, 1930
40 Family Grave w/ Marble Border 1883-1992
41 Family Grave w/ Marble Border 1927, 1883
42 Family Pillar w/ Partly-Shrouded Urn 1870, 1899
43 Pillar w/ Uncovered Urn 1909
44 Headstone w/ Uncovered Urn 1914
45 Pillar w/ Uncovered Urn 1931
46 Family Pillar w/ Uncovered Urn 1914
47 Family Grave w/ Border 1985, 1989
48 Family Grave w/ Border 1918-1989
49 Family Pillar w/ Uncovered Urn 1911, 1922
50 Celtic Cross 1917
51 Family Headstone w/ Uncovered Urn 1922-1942
52 Christian Cross 1934
53 Celtic Cross 1936
54 Family Grave w/ Border 1932-2013
55 Modern Family Headstone 1995-2003
56 Family Pillar w/ Uncovered Urn 1880-1903
57 Family Pillar w/ Uncovered Urn 1918, 1923
58 Family Celtic Cross 1923, 1935
59 Child's Christian Cross w/ Angel 1931
60 Family Grave w/ Border 1904-1992
61 Polish Christian Cross 1967, Polish: "Here Lives in You the Priest of the Poles in Wales"
62 Modern Headstone 1995












MAURICE M. HODGKINSON
BORN 25th FEBRUARY 1912
DIED 30th MARCH 1984
RACHEL JONES
BORN 20th JULY 1934
DIED 12th OCTOBER 2002
In Loving Memory From GWYN and PAULINE




Er Cof: Annwyl Am
John Thomas
Esgeronenfach Plwyf Llanybydder
1857 — 1936.
Hefyd Hannah ei Briod
1872 — 1942.
Henffych ir dydd cawn eto gwrdd


Er Cof: Annwyl Am
John Thomas
Esgeronenfach Plwyf Llanybydder
1857 — 1936.
Hefyd Hannah ei Briod
1872 — 1942.
Henffych ir dydd cawn eto gwrdd




JOHN JONES


IN
LOVING MEMORY
OF
REES DAVIES
SPRING GARDENS


JOHN ROWLANDS,




IN
MEMORY
OF
THOMAS LEWIS
BORN 28TH OCTOBER 1803
FELL ASLEEP
MARIE
VICTOIRE
WIFE
WHO DIED
SEPT. 1ST.
1887 AGED 73 YEARS


HENRY O. HOWELLS
ER
SERCHUS - COF O EIM
HOWELL HOWELLS,
LLANWNEN,
BU FARW TACH. 12, 1949,
YN 63 ML. OED.
HYD ONT WEWIO Y DYDD.
HEFYD EI CHWEER
GWENLLIAN HOWELLS,
BU FARW MEWRTH 12, 1966,
YN 76 ML. OED.
CWYN ETO OWRDD.
In Serchus Cof
HENRY HOWELLS
SARAH HOWELLS


DAVID DAVIES






DAVIES
JENKIN DAVIES






IN MEMORY OF
PETER M. K. MORRIS M.A.
1927 — 2010
CANON OF ST. DAVID'S CATHEDRAL
SENIOR LECTURER AT S.D.U.C. LAMPETER
















IN LOVING REMEMBRANCE OF
THOMAS ZAMC
COLLECK STREET, LAMPETER
LATE OF LISBURNE MINES,
WHO DEPARTED THIS LIFE
MAY 29TH, 1879, IN THE 74TH
YEAR OF HIS AGE, AND THE






















Er Cof Annwyl Am
JOHN PRICE
FRONBEDR, LLANBEDR.
HUNODD MAI 9-1933,
YN 74 OED.
JANE
EI BRIOD,
A HUNODD MEDI 29-1932,
YN 72 OED.
HEFYD I'W PLANT A HUNASANT
DAVID, HYD. 27-1883, YN FIS OED.
SAMUEL, GORFF. 24-1896, YN 12 OED.
JOSEPH, ION. 1-1897, YN 9 OED.
HEFYD BABAN
DAVID, CHWEF. 4-1936, YN 49 OED.
JOHN, HYD. 23-1972, YN 82 OED.
MARY ELIZABETH CHWEF. 15-1992.
GORFFWYSO MAENT MEWN HEDD — CWYN EU BYD.



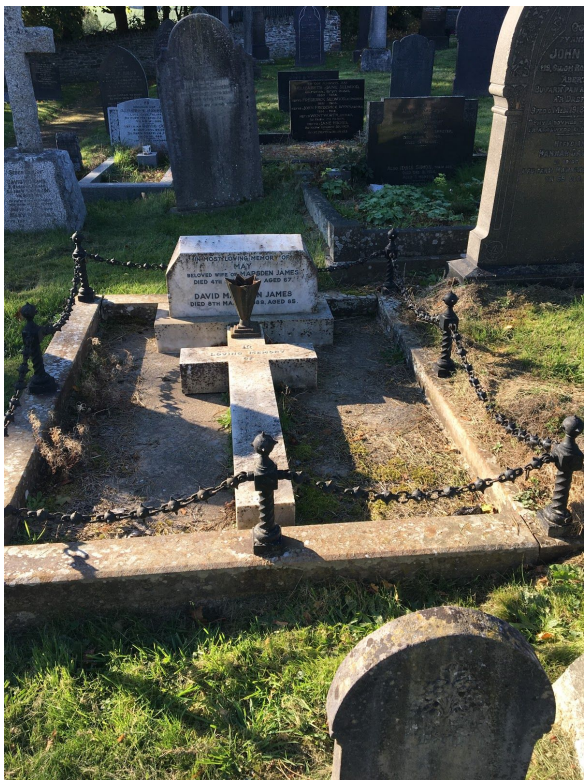



ER
COF AM
RACHEL,
AHWYL BRIOD DANIEL EVANS,
GRANTHAM, O'R DREF HON;
YR HON A FU PARW
AWST 28AIN, 1909,
YN 64 ML. OED.
"GWERTHFAWR YNGOLWG YR
ARGLWYDD YW MARWOLAETH
EI SAINT EF."


DANIEL COLE JONES,
2, MARKET ST, LAMPETER
HYDREF 15, 1914.
YN 74 OED

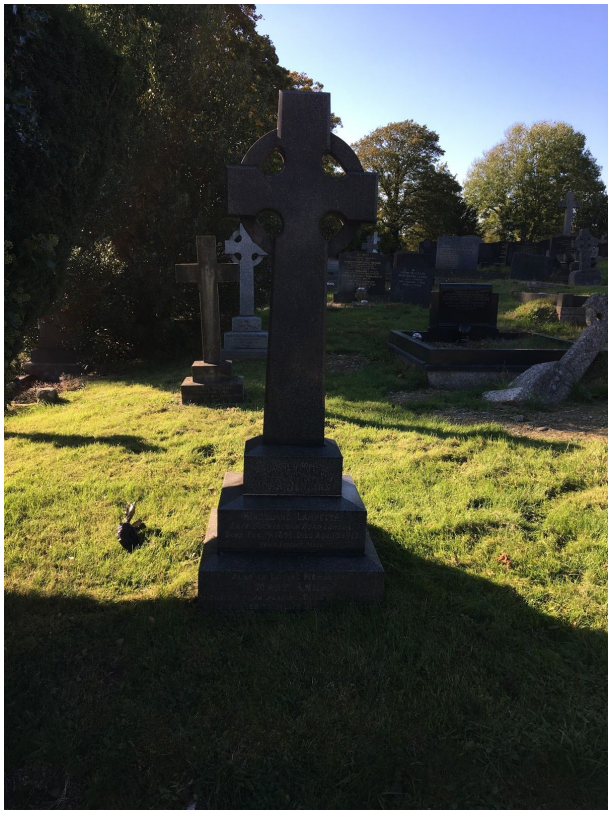

ER
COF ANWYL AM
MARY,
PRIOD JAMES JONES,
BLAENO-FFRWD,
PLWYF PENCARREG,
YN UNION A PU FARW
EBRILL 28AIN, 1931,
YN 78 OED.

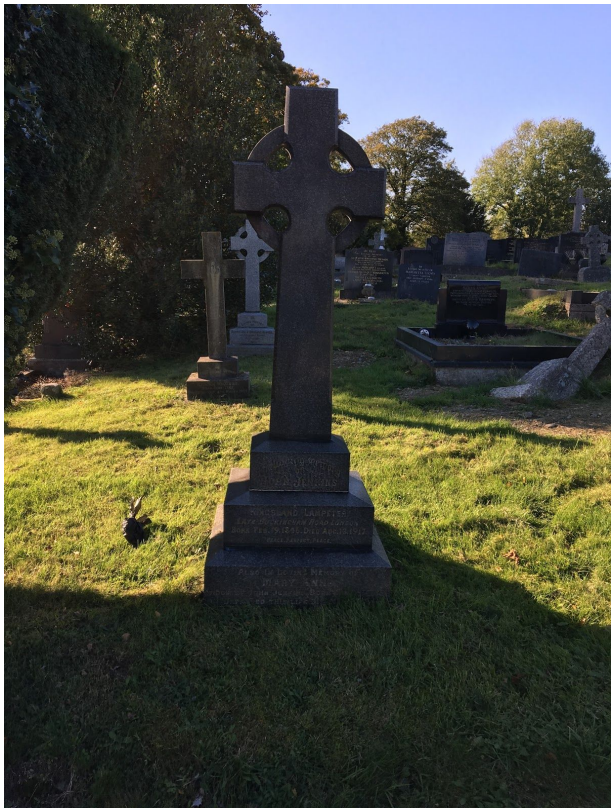



ER
SERCHIUS GOF AM
Y PARCHEDIG
HAYDN RICHARDS
1932 - 1989


MORGAN RICHARDS,
ELIZABETH RICHARDS,
DAVID DANIEL
ELIZABETH NELLIAN
MEMORY OF
SMITH
1880 * 1946.
HIS WIFE
1965.
THEIR SON
1921.
SMITH


MARY,
DAVID JAMES.
DAVID JAMES












Serchus Gof
JOHN DAVIES-LLOYD,
LLYS AWEL, BRIDGE ST, GOR DREF HON,
MARY JANE LLOYD,
ELUNED PHILLIPS,
Er Serchus Gof Am
JOHN DANIEL LLOYD JONES
60, Bridge St, Lampeter
1933 — 2013
Hedd, Perffaith Hedd.



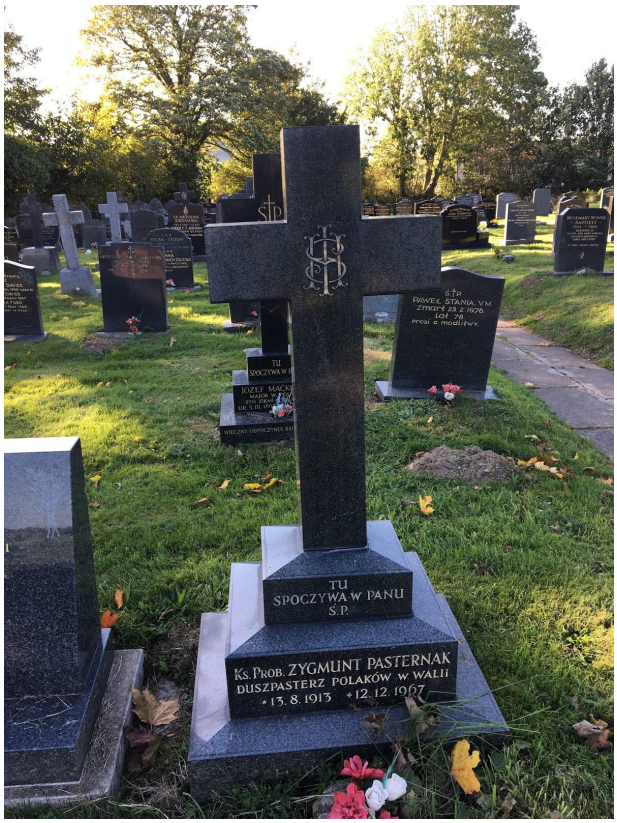

In Loving Memory
of
DAVID PAUL THOMAS
1964 – 1996
TREASURED MEMORIES
OF
DON STEVENS
1917 – 1995
BELOVED HUSBAND OF MAY
VICARS WARDEN AT St PETERS CHURCH
ALSO HIS BELOVED WIFE
MAY STEVENS
1912 – 2003
REST IN PEACE


ER
Cof Am
JOHN MARSDEN.
HUNODD MAWRTH 8, 1908.
YN 30 MLWYDD OED.
MARY ELIZABETH.
HUNODD MAI 17, 1880.
YN 2 FLS OED.
JANE MARGARETTA.
HUNODD MAI 25, 1893.
YN 15 MIS OED.
AHWYL BLANT
DANIEL AC ANNE DAVIES.
ROSE LAND.




THOMAS THOMAS
LLWYN, LLANFAIR.
YR HWN A FU FARW NEHEFIN 19, 1923
YN 68 MLWYDD OED.
HEFYD AM ELIZABETH THOMAS
A FU FARW MEHEFIN 26ain, 1933,
YN 73 ML. OED.


IN GODS KEEPING
ELIZABETH


TU
SPOCZYWA W PANU
S.P.
Ks. Prob. ZYGMUNT PASTERNAK
DUSZPASTERZ POLAKÓW W WALII
+13.8.1913 +12.12.1967


ER COF ANNWYL AM
WILLIAM JONES, (BUTCHER)
1869 5 HIGH STREET, CAERDYDD 1925
HEFYD AM SARAH EI BRIOD
1873 UPPER BANK, BRYN ROAD. 1949
HEFYD AM DAVID FREDERICK, EU MAB 1904
1903
HEFYD AM
SGT. PILOT SIDNEY ROWLAND, R.A.F. (V.R.)
1914 EU MAB HYSBYSWYD AR GOLL 1943
HEFYD AM THOMAS ALBERT, EU MAB 1963
1901
HEFYD AM HENRY VERNON, EU MAB 1972
1907
HE ICE L.R.A.M. A.R.C.M. EU MERCH 1992


ROSEMARY WYNNE
IN
LOVING MEMORY OF
MARY LLOYD DAVIES
AGED 71 YEARS.
FORMERLY OF TREWERN, LAMPETER
ALSO HER DEAR HUSBAND
GWYN BEYNON
AGED 73 YEARS.
EVER IN OUR THOUGHTS
In Loving Memory
of
WILLIAM JOHN JENKINS
In Loving Memory
of
DAVID PAUL THOMAS
DWYFOR, MAESYLLAN, LAMPETER
1964 - 1996
ER
COF ANNWYL AM
WILFRED J.S. EVANS
5, GREENFIELD TERRACE
1926 1995