

Welcome to St Nicholas' Church, Worth

Feel free to use this quick guide while visiting but please leave it here. Thank You.

Don't miss these highlights



The very fine sarcophagus in the Greek style, just East of the South Porch, to the Norman family

George Cook, of Tilgate - England's oldest man at the time he died aged 108



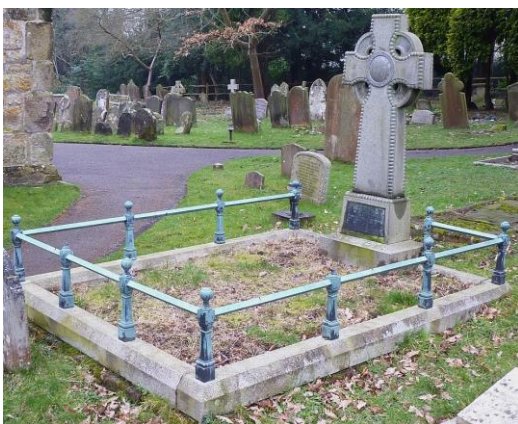
Isaac Tullett (died 1897), a bellringer here whose grave, in almost the farthest South East corner of the graveyard, displays a bell and bellrope
Isaac is also commemorated on the "peal boards" in the ringing chamber of the bell tower

The grave of James Brooker who died of an accidental discharge of a gun in 1806

Gamekeeper to the Rector, he is described, among other fine words, as a "Valuable Domestic"

John Alcorn, the clerk and sexton (gravedigger) here for 53 years, whose stone has an evocative poem about this place and how involved he was with it

John's grave is buried right next to the path and the seat that backs on to the church's South wall



The grave of Robert Whitehead (died 1905), a Victorian engineering entrepreneur and inventor of the first self-propelled torpedo (although the grave does not say so)

His prototype torpedo was completed as early as 1866, yet versions of it were used as late as the Falklands War (1982) and beyond. A devout Christian, he felt torpedoes should be deterrents rather than used as weapons and at his funeral here, a torpedo made from white flowers adorned his coffin
His grave has a large Celtic cross in low railings with much grass within and lies just to the North of the West Door.

Robert Whitehead was the grandfather of Agatha Whitehead, whose seven children with husband Captain Georg von Trapp were immortalized in the film, "The Sound of Music". After Agatha's death from scarlet fever in 1922, Georg married his second wife, postulant nun Maria Kutschera and together they and the children became the ensemble known as the von Trapp Family Singers.



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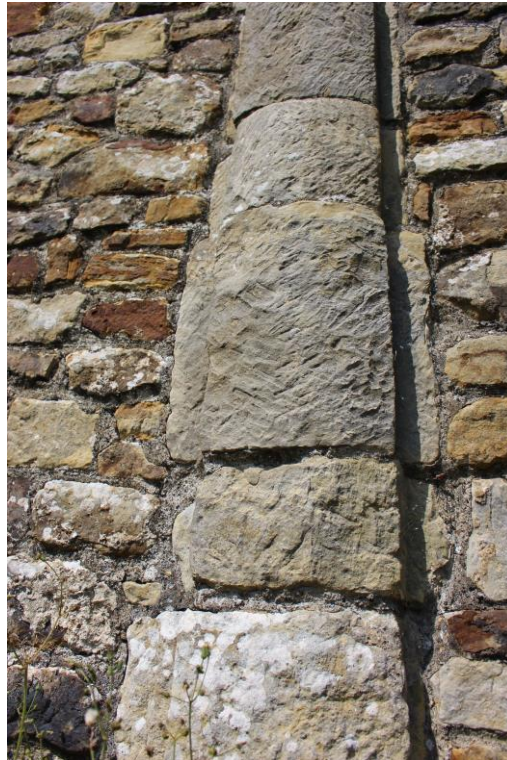
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The grave of Driver A Everest, Royal Field Artillery which is one of a number of War Graves Commission headstones

This one is near the East end of the church, (slightly to the North) and is notable because, sadly, he died on 7 November 1918, only 4 days before the Armistice

The tower and vestries from 1869-71 designed by English architect Anthony Salvin, which replaced a previous wooden belltower and small spire supported on massive wooden beams



The pilasters (vertical strips) which are re-used AngloSaxon work unlike most of the Apse which is a reconstruction

Most of the walls of the nave and the two porticos which are AngloSaxon stonework (950 A.D.) denoted by irregular cutting marks

Stonework from the Victorian restoration of has marks that are more regular, parallel and angled

The grave of Elizabeth Clifton, wife of Henry Clifton, who died as a result of an accidental gun explosion in 1826

A report of the inquest from The Times of Wednesday, Sep 20, 1826 is reproduced here



On Tuesday last an inquisition was taken before G. Gwynne, Esq., at Turner's hill, in the parish of Worth, Sussex, on view of the body of Elizabeth Clifton, the wife of Henry Clifton, bailiff to General Cartwright, of the Grove-house, who on Monday last was unhappily killed by the accidental discharge of her husband's gun. It appeared in evidence, that Clifton and a friend of his who had called upon him, having agreed on going out to shoot rabbits, the former went up stairs, and brought his gun from the bed-room into the kitchen, where he proceeded to brush the dust from the pan of the lock, and finding the lock did not move so freely as it should do, stooped down to remedy the defect, by loosening its screw, when by some means his gun exploded, and Mrs. Clifton, who was standing in an opposite direction, with her back towards the gun, received the whole of its contents in the calves of her legs, which were dreadfully lacerated, and particularly the left leg, the bones of which, a little above the ankle joint, were shattered to pieces. Able surgical assistance was quickly procured, when an amputation of the shattered limb, a little below the knee, was determined upon, but before the operation could be commenced, an extreme hemorrhage put a period to her sufferings, as she expired about four hours after the accident.—Verdict—"Accidental Death," with a dead-end of 5s. on the gun. The husband of the deceased stated that he did not know the gun was loaded, although he usually kept it so in his bed-room, for the protection of his master's property. Mrs. Clifton was a woman much respected in her situation.—*Leves paper.*

