



Gateway to  
the history  
of Shropshire  
and Telford

# A short guide to Cemeteries

## ◆ History

Cemeteries are different from churchyards. Churchyards are traditional places of burial that have been available for centuries, are generally located next to churches and are owned by the Church of England. By contrast, cemeteries came into common use from the mid nineteenth century when church graveyards were beginning to pose serious health risks due to overcrowding. The Burial Acts of 1852 and 1853 enabled local authorities to administer their own cemeteries which were usually located on the outskirts of towns or cities where land was cheap. The vast proportion of cemeteries are owned, managed and administered by district, town and parish councils and London boroughs. Church law applies to churchyards, but not to cemeteries. However, cemeteries may be partially or wholly consecrated.

## ◆ Cemetery Records

Shropshire Archives holds very few cemetery records as most are still held by the relevant local authorities, as detailed below.

[Note: The National and Shropshire Burial Indexes include some cemetery records, available on CD Rom in the Reading Room. The Montgomeryshire Genealogical Society has published memorial inscriptions for the following parish cemeteries: Churchstoke (MR/MI/34), Buttington (MR/MI/51), Guilsfield (MR/MI/39) and Tregynon new cemetery (MR/MI/13), all available in the Reading Room.]

## ◇ Bridgnorth

- Mill Street, Bridgnorth [formed in 1855]

Contact: Bridgnorth Town Council, Council Offices, College House, St Leonard's Close, Bridgnorth WV16 4EJ (Tel: 01746 762231)

See Bridgnorth Borough Records *SA Ref DA2/204/1/1* for an index to graves in Bridgnorth cemetery 1855-1957; and *SA Ref 6007/104* for a plan to the cemetery 1855. **Records held offsite; please request in advance.**

## ◇ Church Stretton

- Church Stretton Cemetery, Cunnery Road, Church Stretton SY6 6QX

- Greenhills Cemetery, Worlds End, Church Stretton SY6 6QY

Contact: Church Stretton Town Council, Council Office, 60 High Street, Church Stretton SY6 6BY (Tel: 01694 722113)

### ◇ Ellesmere

- Swan Hill, Ellesmere [opened 1865] is administered by the Ellesmere Parishes Joint Burial Committee.

Contact: The Caretaker, The Cemetery Lodge, Swan Hill, Ellesmere SY12 OLZ (Tel: 01691 622804)

Note: See *SA Ref 7208* for a plan of Ellesmere cemetery.

### ◇ Ludlow

- Garden of Rest, St Laurence's church (now a closed churchyard).

- St Leonard's, Corve Street (the old church is now a printing press but the burial land is still owned by St Laurence's church).

Contact: The Parish Office, 2 College Street, Ludlow, SY8 1AN (Tel: 01584 871 970) to access records relating to the above.

- Henley Road, Ludlow [formerly Rocks Green, opened in 1915]

Contact: The Clerk, Ludlow Town Council, The Guildhall, Mill Street, Ludlow SY8 1AZ. (Tel. 01584 871 970.)

### ◇ Market Drayton

- Cemetery Lodge, Cemetery Road [opened in 1868]

Contact: Market Drayton Town Council, 18 Frogmore Road, Market Drayton TF9 3AX. (Tel 01630 652833 cemetery enquiries number)

[townclerk@marketdrayton.gov.uk](mailto:townclerk@marketdrayton.gov.uk)

Note: A transcript of Burials 1868-1947 (with plan and name index) is available in the Reading Room.

### ◇ Much Wenlock

- Bridgnorth Road, Much Wenlock, TF13 6HL

Contact: Much Wenlock Town Council, Corn Exchange, High Street, Much Wenlock, Shropshire, TF13 6AE (Tel: 01952 727509)

Note: See SA DA6/203/2/5 and DA6/203/2/3-7 for grave plans. **held onsite; please request in advance.**

### ◇ Newport

- Newport General Cemetery, Cemetery Lodge, Audley Avenue, Newport, Shropshire TF10 7DS [opened in 1859]

Contact: Newport Town Council, The Guildhall, High Street, Newport, Shropshire TF10 7TX (Tel: 01952 814338)

### ◇ Oswestry

Original records held by Oswestry Town Council.

Contact: Oswestry Town Council, The Guildhall, Oswestry SY11 1PZ (Tel: 01691 680222)

A burials database is now available online at

[www.oswestrycemeteryproject.org.uk](http://www.oswestrycemeteryproject.org.uk)

The database contains information from the burial registers, genealogy for some individuals buried in the cemetery and images of some gravestones.

Note: See Shropshire Burials Index on CD Rom at Shropshire Archives for entries 1862-1886.

### ◇ **Shrewsbury**

- Records relating to Shrewsbury's first General Cemetery (Abbey Cemetery 1841-1888) are available to consult at the Centre (See *Shrewsbury Holy Cross parish microfiche P250/10*).

- Belle Vue Cemetery [opened in 1852 for the use of nonconformists and now owned by The Apostolic Church]

- Shrewsbury General Cemetery, Longden Road, Shrewsbury SY3 7HS (Tel: 01743 281181)

The following records for Shrewsbury General Cemetery, 1856-1997, are held on microfiche and listed in the 'Shrewsbury Cemetery Guide' available in the Reading Room, along with a plan: Burial Registers, Index to Register of Burials, Purchase of Graves Register, Register of Graves, and Register of Graves Extension. Registers are closed for 30 years. If you require information from closed registers, our Research Service will search for particular names, please ask a member of staff for more details.

### ◇ **Borough of Telford & Wrekin**

Includes the following cemeteries:

- Wellington Cemetery, Linden Avenue, Wellington, Telford TF1 1QR [opened in 1874]

- Castle Green Cemetery, Lincoln Hill, Ironbridge, Telford TF8 7NY [opened in the 1940's with a special burial garden opened in 1999 for babies and children]

- Hadley Cemetery, 85 Hadley Park Road, Leegomery, Telford TF1 6PN [opened in 1902]

- Wombridge Cemetery, Wombridge Road, Wombridge, Telford TF2 6HT [opened in 1961]

All cemetery records, dating as far back as 1874, are now kept by the Borough of Telford & Wrekin and are available upon request. Contact: Burials & Cemeteries, Borough of Telford & Wrekin, <http://www.telford.gov.uk/directory/17/cemeteries>)

### ◇ **Wem**

The church cemetery, in Aston Street, was formed in 1852 but closed in January 1892 when a new cemetery opened on the Whitchurch Road.

- Whitchurch Road cemetery [opened in 1892] is administered by Wem P.C.C. and is now only open for the reopening of existing graves.

Contact: <http://www.achurchnearyou.com/wem-st-peter-st-paul/>

Tel: 01939 232550

- Love Lane cemetery [opened in 1975] is administered by Wem Town Council.

Contact: Wem Town Council, Wem Town Hall, Wem SY4 5DG  
(Tel: 01939 232733)

### ◇ **Whitchurch**

- Mile Bank cemetery [opened in 1895] is administered by the Whitchurch Joint Cemetery Board.

Contact: Whitchurch Town Council, Civic Centre, High Street, Whitchurch, Shropshire SY13 1AX, (tel. 01948 665761)

Burials from 1895-2009, together with the location of individual graves are at [www.whitchurchcenterery.com/index](http://www.whitchurchcenterery.com/index)

### **War Memorials**

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission cares for the cemeteries that exist abroad and in the UK for those who died in the two world wars. They can provide information on burials in those cemeteries (see their web site [www.cwgc.org](http://www.cwgc.org) for contact details or if you wish to enquire about a specific casualty or cemetery please e-mail [casualty.enq@cwgc.org](mailto:casualty.enq@cwgc.org) ).

Cemeteries located near army camps in Britain should also be researched. War memorials were erected in Britain to honour those who died in the wars and list the men's names and sometimes their regiment, ship or squadron. These can be seen in villages, towns and cities, usually in churches or churchyards, on village greens or by public buildings.

### **Crematoria**

Telford Crematorium Ltd, Telford Crematorium, Woodhouse Lane, Redhill, Telford TF2 9NJ (Tel: 01952 610612)

Emstrey Crematorium, London Road, Shrewsbury SY2 6PS (Tel: 01743 237 900) via the Council's Bereavement Service in partnership with The Co-operative) <https://www.shropshire.gov.uk/births,-deaths-and-marriages/bereavement-services/>

### **Useful Web Sites**

[www.york.ac.uk/inst/chp/crg.htm](http://www.york.ac.uk/inst/chp/crg.htm) (the Cemetery Research Group)

[www.savinggraves.com](http://www.savinggraves.com) (provides a county-by-county list of cemeteries and crematoria – not all counties have yet been completed)

[www.cwgc.org](http://www.cwgc.org) (Commonwealth War Graves Commission)

Contact details are liable to change. Current information relating to individual cemeteries can also be obtained from the relevant Town Council websites.

It is also worth searching our online catalogues for other information relating to cemeteries.

### **Shropshire Archives**

Castle Gates, Shrewsbury SY1 2AQ  
tel: 0345 678 9096, fax: 01743 255355  
e-mail: [archives@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:archives@shropshire.gov.uk)  
web site: [www.shropshirearchives.org.uk](http://www.shropshirearchives.org.uk)