

Churchyard Study

Did you know: Only wealthy people could afford a stone monument until about the 18th century when they became more widely used. Rich and influential people chose to be buried in or near the church building, poorer people were further away. 'Strangers, paupers and those who had died a violent death' were buried on the north side of the church.

Look at, at least 20, gravestones. Can you find out the answers to these questions?

Did women live longer than men?

In which decade did most deaths occur?

What is the average age of people buried before and since 1950?

What is the oldest headstone you can find?

What is the most common Christian name/surname?

How old was the oldest person you can find?

What is the most popular symbol on the headstones in the burial ground?

What is the most commonly used headstone shape?

Choose 3 headstones and record all the information found on them.

What does the information tell you?

Are there any clues to the person's job or the kind of life they led?

Did they have a family?

Are there any war graves?

What type/colour of stone is used?

Does it have a regimental badge?

Which war had the biggest impact on your area? How do you know?

Is there a Yew tree?

Why are they often found in grave yards?

Do a rubbing of your favourite gravestone.

Draw a sketch of the church.