

Cemetery and Burial Records

Cemeteries

Traditionally, burials took place in the churchyard of the parish church. As nonconformity became more widespread, a number of chapels provided their own burial grounds, but most continued to make use of the parish churchyard.

By the mid nineteenth century, these churchyards were proving insufficient for the growing population of towns and in 1853 an Act of Parliament allowed local authorities to provide new, non-denominational, cemeteries. This led in Doncaster to the opening of the Hyde Park cemetery in 1856. Responsibility for Hyde Park was subsequently transferred to Doncaster borough council and the council provided a new cemetery at Rosehill, Cantley in 1934. Outside Doncaster, civil parish councils and Urban District Councils were also creating cemeteries as alternatives to the parish churchyards.

Doncaster Archives holds microfilms of cemetery registers and some original cemetery registers. You will need to book a microfilm reader to see these records. For information about other cemeteries, you will need to contact the Cemeteries and Crematorium Department at Rose Hill Crematorium, Cantley Lane, Doncaster DN4 6NB, telephone 01302 535191.

N.B. Please note the above services are not available at the moment due to the Coronavirus lockdown. Details of our regular service can be found on the following website.

<https://www.heritagedoncaster.org.uk/archives-local-studies/>

Monumental Inscriptions

Monumental Inscriptions, usually abbreviated to MIs, are a record of gravestones in churchyards and some cemeteries, as well as monuments and plaques inside churches. The information was collected mainly in the 1980s and as such they record what was legible at that time. Some points to remember are that not everyone could afford a gravestone and so the lack of a name in the MI doesn't mean that they were not buried in the churchyard and it is worth looking at the parish burial register for a record of the burial. Over time graves have been lost through wear and tear, vandalism and church re-landscaping. A local example is when the dual carriageway was created next to St George's Church (now Doncaster Minster) in the 1960s, the gravestones were re-sited at St John's in Balby whilst the remains were re-interred at Rose Hill cemetery.

The MIs comprise of three sections - the transcription of the wording on the gravestones (with a corresponding number), a surname index and a layout plan of the graves in relation to the site of the church. The reference number allows you to look up the name in the index and then find the transcription and the site on the layout plan.

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