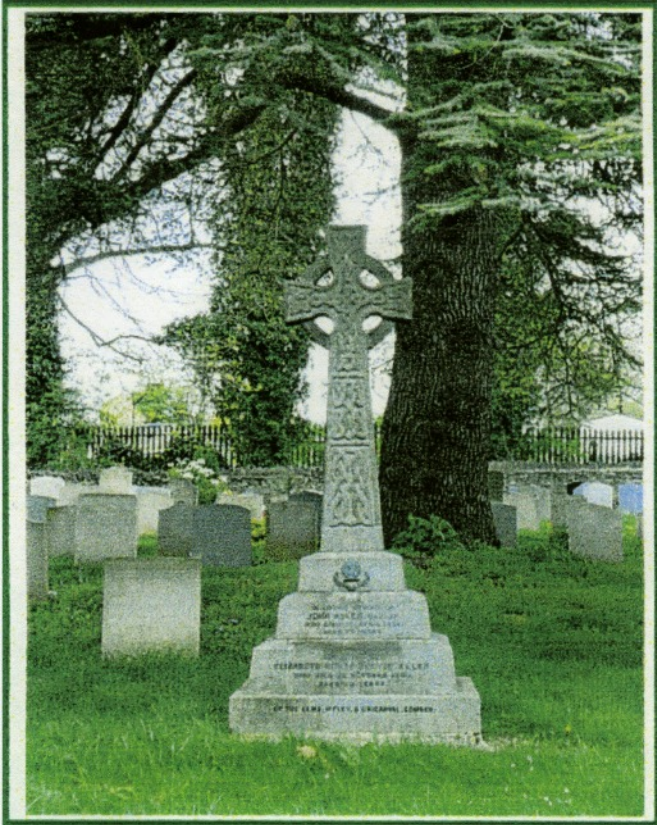


IFFLEY BURIAL GROUND

HISTORY



The Burial Ground was purchased on 7 July 1908. The old churchyard, already extended eastwards in the 1870s, was nearly full again and in need of extension.

It had been difficult to choose a new site; the population of the parish was very much larger than it had been thirty years before. The area around Fairacres Road and its adjoining stretch of the Iffley Road had scores of new households which all had the right to bury their dead at Iffley, being residents of the ecclesiastical parish. There was no ground available, near to the church, which was big enough. The matter was

debated at a public meeting on 8 April 1907, reported in the "Oxford Times".

The churchwardens and some prominent local residents found a practical solution. They pointed out that the Fairacres Road area was part of the City: its residents paid City rates; they had a right of burial in Oxford City cemeteries and did not need their right of burial in Iffley as well. The civil parish of Iffley was smaller than the ecclesiastical parish and it did not include the growth areas. The wardens proposed buying the plot on East-church as a burial ground for the civil parish; for that number of households it would be sufficient, and it lay next to the church,

In order to carry out this plan, which departed from ordinary church rules, an independent body had to be set up - a board of trustees who would raise the purchase money, buy the land and manage it on the agreed terms. They bought the larger part of the site from the Donnington Hospital for £105 and a small section from the parish glebe for £30.

The first Trustees were the Revd Michael Newbolt, Major Reginald Croft Lever, John Allen, Edward Henry Turner and George Benfield. They had the land cleared, enclosed and prepared. The old churchyard finally filled in 1912, and in September of that year Bishop Gore consecrated the new Ground.

The original policy of exclusion lapsed long ago; there has been no civil parish since 1928. The Ground then filled more rapidly. In 2002 the

Trustees considered future maintenance when no more burials could be accommodated and therefore no more fees would be received. They decided on a fund-raising appeal, to begin in 2008 with the centenary of purchasing the Ground.

The current Trustees are: Dougall Morrison (chairman), Revd Andrew McKearney, Shelia Fairfield, and George Locke. The Treasurer is Mary Tate.

It is hoped to put on a fund raising production on 7 December 2013. Further details available here nearer the time.