

Local list description and map for All Saints Churchyard Harrow Weald and All Saints Churchyard extension

Adopted at Cabinet 23rd September 2021

This area meets the following criteria for local listing:

- (A) Date and rarity.** The older a designed landscape is, and the fewer the surviving examples of its kind, the more likely it is to have special interest. Likely to be designated are:
 - i. sites with a main phase of development post-1840 which are of special interest and relatively intact, the degree of required special interest rising as the site becomes closer in time
- (B) Further considerations** which may influence selection, and may exceptionally be sufficient by themselves to merit:
 - i. Sites having an association with significant persons or historic events
 - ii. Sites with a strong group value with other heritage assets

Summary and introduction:

The All Saints churchyard and extension are special for being built post-1840 and still relatively intact, with a focal point being the (now grade II* listed) All Saints Church. The walled burial ground was in use from 1845/6 and contains a number of fine trees, including an old yew. The grade II listed lych-gate at the entrance focuses views towards the church along with a lime walk leading to the church. The churchyard is bounded east and west with Horse Chestnuts and in the north, a block of woodland, chiefly self-sown containing Sycamore scrub, but with occasional Yew, Holly and Laurel, and possibly vestigial path-layout. The associations with significant persons of William Butterfield, Burne-Jones, Edmund Crosse and Thomas Blackwell provide additional historic interest. The extension to the churchyard south of Uxbridge Road was opened in 1884 contains hawthorn hedge boundary with interesting tombs and monuments set among the grass, and scattered trees, and an informal path between two entrances. The grade II listed monument to Leefe Robinson is of particular historic interest here.

Details:

All Saints Churchyard Harrow Weald was laid out to relate to the (now grade II* listed) church in 1842-45 which forms the focal point. The churchyard leads to the church which was first built as a stone church with chancel designed by JT Harrison, with nave and south aisle added by William Butterfield in 1849-1852 who later widened the north aisle and built the tower in 1889-1892. The church has stained glass windows by William Morris's company including work by Burne-Jones.

The church has low walling to Uxbridge Road and the entrance is through a picturesque timber framed lych-gate (now grade II listed) which has a dedication dated 1866 to Edward Monro, who served as the first vicar of All Saints' until 1860. There is a lime walk leading to the church. The churchyard is bounded east and west with Horse Chestnuts and behind the church is a block of woodland, chiefly self-sown containing Sycamore scrub, but with occasional Yew, Holly and Laurel, and possibly vestigial path-layout.

Historic map regression shows the simple churchyard layout is special partly as it remains largely as it did when first laid out. There is added historic interest as a monument commemorates WS Gilbert (d.1911) who lived nearby at Grims Dyke.

There is also historic interest among the monuments in the churchyard are also the tombs of Edward Crosse and his wife, 1863 and close by the Blackwell family tomb, c1871. Edmund Crosse and Thomas Blackwell were friends all their lives, having met when they were both working as 15 year olds for West and Wyatt, food preservers in oil. They bought the business in 1830 when Mr Wyatt retired and it became Crosse and Blackwell. Blackwell's son, Thomas Francis Blackwell, was a major landowner and farmer in the area, living at the Cedars and an important local benefactor, sponsoring the rebuilding of All Saints in 1890. The family is recalled in the Blackwell Hall, which opened in 1985 to replace an earlier church hall that had been donated by Mr and Mrs Blackwell in memory of their two sons who died in WWI

To the south of the church, across Uxbridge Road is All Saints Churchyard extension which was opened in 1884 to provide more space for burials and was donated by Alexander Sim of Harrow Weald Park. Sim was buried here in 1885 later joined by his wife in 1909. The grounds have a hawthorn hedge boundary and interesting tombs and monuments set among the grass and scattered trees, and an informal path between two entrances. The primary monument of interest is the grave of Captain William Leefe Robinson VC who shot down a Zeppelin in World War I. This is grade II listed as a memorial to the first Royal Flying Corps pilot to shoot down a German Zeppelin over England during the First World War. Robinson's death on the last day of 1918 is also a poignant reminder of the Spanish Influenza pandemic which claimed millions of lives worldwide at the end of the war.

In the setting of the original churchyard, behind is the site of the original vicarage. This and the woodland beyond, Bentley Day Centre Wood, is now the Bentley Old Vicarage Nature Reserve, which has paths running through it and contains a number of fine trees including Lombardy poplar and apple trees. The main areas of the churchyard and the woodland are now managed for wildlife interest, with grass in the churchyard left uncut until July. The churchyard is particularly pretty in the spring when primroses, violets, celandine and anemones abound.

All the memorial inscriptions in both the churchyard and cemetery extension have been recorded by the Central Middlesex Family History Society.

Sources:

London Parks and Gardens Trust, The London Inventory Historic Green Spaces, Harrow 2003

Ben Weinreb & Christopher Hibbert, 'The London Encyclopaedia' (Macmillan, revised ed. 1993);

Bridget Cherry and Nikolaus Pevsner, 'The Buildings of England London 3: North West' (Penguin, 1999 ed);

Pamela Davies, 'The Parish Church of St Anselm Hatch End' 1998; All Saints' Church website;

Walter W Druett 'The Stanmores and Harrow Weald Through the Ages' (Hillingdon Press, 1938)

<http://www.londongardensonline.org.uk/gardens-online-record.php?ID=HRW002>

National List descriptions:

- Lych gate to south of Church of All Saints:
<https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1194308>
- Grave of Captain Leefe Robinson VC:
<https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1414459>
- Tomb of Edmund Crosse (died 1862) and his wife Laura Jane (died 1877) south of east end of Church of All Saints:
<https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1079654>
- Family tomb of Thomas Blackwell, adjacent to south east corner of church of All Saints: <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1194325>

