

**Gravestone inscriptions at the parish church of St. John the Baptist,  
Chester, formally the Cathedral & later the collegiate church of Chester**

**Wayne Cronin-Wojdat**

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## **Introduction**

St. John the Baptist Parish Church, Chester was formally the Chester Cathedral. The majority of the gravestones outside of the church have now been laid to the ground and form the pathways immediately in front of the church. In 2009 the condition of the gravestones was deteriorating due to erosion caused by a combination of the weather and people walking over the gravestones. It was decided to record the gravestone inscriptions on the 49 remaining gravestones for future reference. This publication contains the gravestone inscriptions that were recorded in 2009.

**List of the names of people mentioned on the gravestones at St. John the Baptist, Chester**

| <b>Surname</b> | <b>First names</b> | <b>Date of death</b> | <b>Age at death</b> | <b>Residence</b>      |
|----------------|--------------------|----------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| Bailey         | Mary Matilda       | 20 Jul 1858          | 27                  |                       |
| Bailey         | Thomas             | 08 Jan               | 64                  |                       |
| Baker          | Betsy              | 08 Jul 1864          | 55                  |                       |
| Baker          | T. A.              |                      |                     |                       |
| Bannister      | Charlotte          | 13 Jan 1858          | 58                  |                       |
| Bannister      | Joseph             | 19 May 1870          | 65                  |                       |
| Barlow         | James              | 20 Nov 1856          | 56                  | Gwersyllt,<br>Wrexham |
| Bateman        | Ann                | 12 Apr 1858          | 38                  |                       |
| Bebbington     | Mary               | Oct 1864             | 66                  |                       |
| Bebbington     | Thomas             | 11 Mar 1863          | 23                  |                       |
| Bebbington     | William            | 24 Jul 1861          | 63                  |                       |
| Bordessa       | Hannah             | 20 Aug 1866          | 50                  |                       |
| Bordessa       | Peter              | 15 Nov 1866          | 37                  |                       |
| Bowyer         | Beth               | 15 May 1859          | 66                  | Chester               |
| Bowyer         | Richard            | 07 Nov 1869          | 61                  |                       |
| Boyle          | Sarah              | 24 Jul 1864          | 85                  |                       |
| Burgess        | James              | 27 Feb 1858          | 68                  | Liverpool             |
| Cawley         | ?                  | 27 Jun 1816          | 7 weeks             |                       |
| Cawley         | Ann                | 11 Apr 18?           |                     |                       |
| Cawley         | Elizabeth          | 07 May 1856          | 6 weeks             |                       |
| Cawley         | John               |                      |                     |                       |
| Cawley         | John               | Nov                  | 2 years 10 months   |                       |
| Davies         | Charlotte          | 09 Nov 1808          | 22                  |                       |
| Davies         | Richard            | 05 ?                 | 12                  |                       |
| Davies         | Richard            | 07?                  | 84                  |                       |
| Davies         | Thomas Gough       | 04 Sep 1808          | 15                  |                       |
| Dover          | Septima Mary       | 08 Oct               | 27                  |                       |
| Dutton         | Joseph             | 29 Jan 1873          | 74                  | Chester               |
| Fail           | Elizabeth          | 05 May 1860          | 35                  |                       |
| Fish           | Mary               | 25 Apr 1863          | 64                  |                       |
| Gleave         | Anne               |                      |                     |                       |
| Gleave         | Emma               | 09 Oct 1861          | 22                  |                       |
| Gleave         | Robert             | 20 Jul 1866          | 60                  |                       |
| Gough          | Sarah              | 10 Jun 1821          | 91                  |                       |
| Gregory        | Ann                | 05 Dec 1873          |                     |                       |
| Gregory        | Charles            | 09 Jul 1866          | 11 months           |                       |
| Gregory        | Charles            | 19 Mar 1873          |                     | Chester               |
| Griffiths      | Joyce              | 03 May 1859          | 69                  |                       |
| Griffiths      | William            |                      |                     |                       |
| Hall           | Isabella           | 10 Mar 1844          | 10 months           |                       |
| Hall           | Isabella           | 24 Dec 1858          | 42                  |                       |
| Hall           | Ralph              |                      |                     |                       |
| Hall           | Ralph Kirsop       | 14 Dec 1846          | 1 year 9 months     |                       |
| Hall           | Ralph Kirsop       | 11 Jul 1868          | 16                  |                       |
| Harling        | Catherine          | 18 Feb 1845          | 64                  | Chester               |
| Harling        | W                  |                      |                     | Chester               |
| Harrison       | James              | Feb 1875             |                     |                       |
| Haswell        | Annie              | 04 Nov 1866          | 33                  |                       |
| Haswell        | Henry              |                      |                     |                       |

|          |                |             |                  |                                       |
|----------|----------------|-------------|------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Haswell  | Lucy           | 20 Jun 1856 | 23               | Chester                               |
| Haswell  | Mary           | 23 Nov 1866 | 13 months        |                                       |
| Haswell  | Sarah          | 03 Jan 1859 | 51               |                                       |
| Heath    | Martha         | 22 Dec 1855 | 37               | Chester                               |
| Heath    | William        |             |                  | Chester                               |
| Holland  | James Hugh     | 26 Apr 1865 | 22               |                                       |
| Holland  | William        | 08 Apr 1859 | 55               | Wrexham                               |
| Hughes   | Anne           | 27 Mar 1859 | 23               |                                       |
| Hughes   | Charles        |             |                  | Chester                               |
| Hughes   | George         | 02 Apr 1864 | 26               |                                       |
| Hughes   | Jane           | 25 Oct 1859 | 44               |                                       |
| Jenkins  | Anne           | 25 Mar      | 70               |                                       |
| Jenkins  | Mary           | 14 Jul 1866 |                  | Chester                               |
| Jones    | Catherine      |             |                  |                                       |
| Jones    | Charles Thomas | 28 Jul 1864 | 38               |                                       |
| Jones    | David          | 16 Mar 1857 | 59               |                                       |
| Jones    | John Moses     | 05 Mar 1865 | 58               | Chester                               |
| Jones    | Mary           |             |                  | London                                |
| Jones    | Mary           | Feb 1839    |                  |                                       |
| Jones    | Richard        |             |                  |                                       |
| Jones    | Robert         |             |                  | London                                |
| Jones    | Robert         | 23 Oct 1859 | 51               |                                       |
| Jones    | Sarah          | 08 Jun 1860 | 52               |                                       |
| Jones    | William        |             |                  |                                       |
| Jones    | William        | 30 Aug 1858 | 22               |                                       |
| Marsh    | Thomas         | 13 Jul 1866 | 79               | Liverpool /<br>Faversham, Kent        |
| Moody    | Francis        | 12 May 1870 | 63               | Chester                               |
| Owen     | Ann            |             |                  |                                       |
| Owen     | Ann            | 26 Apr 1842 | 64               |                                       |
| Owen     | Joseph         |             |                  |                                       |
| Owen     | Thomas Corser  | 07 Mar 1811 |                  |                                       |
| Owen     | William Henry  | 11 Apr 1846 | 3 years 9 months |                                       |
| Parry    | Frederick      |             |                  | Broughton                             |
| Parry    | Jane           |             |                  | Broughton                             |
| Parry    | Jane Matilda   | 22 May 1836 | 9                | Broughton                             |
| Parry    | William        | 15 Jan      | 4 year 8 months  | Broughton                             |
| Pratt    | Ann            | 19 Mar 1865 | 68               |                                       |
| Pridden  | Thomas         | 08 Aug 1860 | 56               | Chester                               |
| Randle   | James Harvey   | 04 Jan 1817 | 75               | Falmouth &<br>Chester                 |
| Roberts  | Ann            | 09 Apr      | 64               | Chester                               |
| Roberts  | Elizabeth      | 03 Apr 1867 | 72               | Chester                               |
| Roberts  | Martha Poole   | 02 Dec 1862 | 74               |                                       |
| Roberts  | Shadragh       |             |                  | Chester                               |
| Rowland  | Ann            | 13 Feb 1860 | 76               |                                       |
| Rowland  | William        |             |                  | Llansaintfread &<br>Llangorse, Brecon |
| Serjeant | Elizabeth      | 16 May 1873 | 31               |                                       |
| Serjeant | John           |             |                  |                                       |
| Smith    | Elizabeth      | 23 Jan 1875 | 71               |                                       |
| Smith    | Margaret       | 23 Apr 1867 | 31               |                                       |
| Smith    | Thomas         | 08 Apr 1830 | 06 days          |                                       |

|                 |              |             |                  |         |
|-----------------|--------------|-------------|------------------|---------|
| Smith           | Thomas       | 30 Aug 1834 | 17 months        |         |
| Smith           | William      | 05 Apr 1874 | 65               |         |
| Sparks          | Jestina      | 03 Nov 1862 | 52               |         |
| Sparks          | William      | 08 Apr 1854 | 44               |         |
| Street          | Jane         | 10 Aug 1853 | 66               |         |
| Struht          | James        | 18 Nov 1818 | 73               |         |
| Struht          | Mary         | 22 Jan 1829 | 77               |         |
| Sutcliffe Cragg | Ann          |             |                  |         |
| Sutcliffe Cragg | George       | 27 Aug 1875 | 36               |         |
| Sutcliffe Cragg | George       | 10 Jul 1874 | 8 months 2 weeks |         |
| Sutcliffe Cragg | Susan        | 07 Dec 1872 | 3 years 7 months |         |
| Sutcliffe Cragg | Susan        | 25 Jun 1874 | 8 months         |         |
| Turner          | Elizabeth    | 05 Jan 1865 | 84               |         |
| Turner          | John         | 10 Jan 1865 | 72               | Chester |
| Tushingam       | Samuel       | 22 Feb 1856 | 17               |         |
| Webb            | Ann          | 08 Apr 1872 | 91               |         |
| Welsby          | Henry        |             |                  |         |
| Welsby          | Mary         | 23 Jan 1842 | 69               |         |
| Welsby          | Thomas       | 12 Oct 1816 | 2?               |         |
| Whateley        | William      | 13 Jul 1870 | 51               |         |
| Williams        | John         | 28 Apr 1875 | 45               |         |
| Wright          | Ester        | 4 Feb 1855  | 72               |         |
|                 | Edwin Morris | 24 Sep      | 24               |         |
|                 | Elizabeth    | 09 Oct 1846 | 59               |         |
|                 | John Gregory | 21 Feb 1868 | 72               | Chester |

## **Gravestone Inscriptions**

### **Gravestone 1**

"In memory of Hannah Bordessa who died 20th August 1866 aged 50 years. Also Peter husband of the above who died 15th November 1866 aged 37 years"

### **Gravestone 2**

"In memory of Thomas, son of William and Elizabeth Smith who died 8th April 1830 aged 6 days. Also Thomas, their second son, who died 30th August 1834 aged 17 months. Also Margaret, daughter of the above, who died 23rd April 1867 aged 31 years. Also Elizabeth, daughter of the above and wife of John Serjeant who died 16th May 1873 aged 31 and was interred in Chester Cemetery. Also of the named William Smith who died 5th April 1874 aged 65 years. Also of the above named Elizabeth Smith who died 23rd January 1875 aged 71"

### **Gravestone 3**

"Underneath lie the remains of Charles Thomas Jones, son of Robert and Mary Jones of London, who died at Chester July 28th 1864 aged 38 years"

### **Gravestone 4**

"In memory of Jane Matilda, daughter of Frederick and Jane Parry of Broughton who died May 22nd 1836 aged 9 years. Of such is the Kingdom of Heaven. Also William, son of the above who died January 15th ? aged 4 years and 8 months"

### **Gravestone 5**

"Catherine, wife of W. Harling of this city, died February 18th 1845 aged 64 years. Ann Owen, sister of the above, died April 26th 1842 aged 64 years. We laid them to slumber here till the last glorious morn"

### **Gravestone 6**

"Thomas Gough Davies died 4 Sept 1808 aged 15 years. Charlotte Davies died 9th Nov 1808 aged 22 years. Sarah Gough died 10th June 1821 aged 91 years. Also Richard Davies who died the 5th day ? aged 12 years. Also Richard Davies who died 7th ? aged 84 years"

### **Gravestone 7**

"? daughter of John and Ann Cawley who died June 27th 1816 aged 7 weeks. Also Elizabeth, second daughter of the above who died May 7th 1856 aged 6 weeks. Also of Ann, wife of John Cawley who died April 11th 18?? aged ? years. Also John, son of the above who died November ? aged 2 years 10 months."

### **Gravestone 8**

"Martha Poole Roberts died Dec 2 1862 aged 74"

### **Gravestone 9**

"Sacred in the memory of Mary Matilda, wife of Thomas Bailey ? artist who departed this life July 20th 1858 aged 27 years. Also the above named Thomas Bailey who departed this life January 8th ? aged 64 years"

### **Gravestone 10**

"Sacred to the memory of Francis Moody of Foregate Street who departed this life May 12th 1870 aged 63 years. He was an honest man and a lover of truth. This stone erected by his affectionate sister"

### **Gravestone 11**

"Sacred to the memory of James Harrison who died February ? 1875 aged ? years"

### **Gravestone 12**

"Sacred to the memory of Mary, youngest daughter of Richard and Catherine Jones who died February 1839"

### **Gravestone 13**

"In memory of Charles Gregory of Chester who died March 19th 1873 aged ? years. Also Ann wife of the above who died December 5th 1873 aged ? years. Also Charles, their son, who died July 9th 1866 aged 11 months"



#### **Gravestone 14**

"Underneath lie the remains of William Sparks who died April 8th 1854 aged 44 years. Also Samuel Tushingham died February 22nd 1856 aged 17 years. Also Jestina Sparks, wife of the above William Sparks who died November 3rd 1862 aged 52 years. Also Sarah Boyle, mother of the above, who died July 24th 1864 aged 85 years"

#### **Gravestone 15**

"Sacred to the memory of William Bebbington who died July 24th 1861 aged 63 years. Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord. Also Thomas Bebbington, son of the above, who died March 11th 1863 aged 23. Also Mary Bebbington who died Oct ? 1864 aged 66. From henceforth yea saith the spirit that they may rest from their labours and their marks do follow them"

#### **Gravestone 16**

"In memory of Charlotte, wife of Joseph Bannister died January 13th 1858 aged 58 years. Be ye also ready. Also the above Joseph Bannister who died May 19th 1870 aged 65 years"

#### **Gravestone 17**

"Emma daughter of Robert and Anne Gleave died Oct 9th 1861 aged 22 years. Henry, brother of the above, died July 14th 1865. Also the above Robert Gleave died July 20th 1866 in the 60th year of his age"

#### **Gravestone 18**

"Underneath the remains of Ann Webb who died April 8th 1872 aged 91 years"

#### **Gravestone 19**

"Sacred to the memory of Mary Jenkins of the Bars of this City who died 14th July 1866. Also Anne Jenkin, sister of the above, who died 27th March aged 70 years"

#### **Gravestone 20**

"In memory of Thomas Marsh late of H.M. Customs Liverpool and formally of Faversham, Kent, who died at Chester July 13th 1866 aged 79"

**Gravestone 21**

"In memory of William Whateley died July 13th 1870 aged 51"

**Gravestone 22**

"Memory of Beth, the wife of ? Bowyer of this city, died May 15th 1859 aged 66 years. Also ? Richard Bowyer died November 7th 1869 aged 61"

**Gravestone 23**

"In memory of Robert Jones who died Oct 23rd 1859 aged 51"

**Gravestone 24**

"In memory of Septima Mary Dover who died October 8th ? aged 27 years. Also Edwin Norris ? brother of the above who died September 24th ? aged 24 years"

**Gravestone 25**

"Sacred to the memory of Ann Roberts of this city and formally of ? who died April 9th ? aged 64 years"

**Gravestone 26**

"In affectionate remembrance of John Williams who died April 28th 1875 aged 45 years"

**Gravestone 27**

"Sacred to the memory of Thomas Corser Owen died March 7th 1811 aged ? Also William Henry, son of Joseph and Ann Owen died April 11th 1846 aged 3 years and 9 months"

**Gravestone 28**

"Sacred the memory of ? Ann Hughes ? of Charles Hughes builder of this city died March 27th 1859 aged 23. Jane, wife of Charles Hughes died Oct 25th 1859 aged 44. George Hughes died April 2nd 1864 aged 26 years"

### **Gravestone 29**

" Sacred to the memory of Isabella Hall who died March 10th 1844 aged 10 months. Also Ralph Kirsop Hall who died Dec 14th 1846 aged 1 year & 9 months. Also Isabella Hall, mother of the above, who died Dec 24th 1858 aged 42 years. A loving wife, a mother dear, a faithful friend, lies buried here, each person passing here doth warning give that here we soon must cease to live. Also Elizabeth Fail who died May 5 1860 aged 35 years. Her end was peace. Also Ralph Kirsop, son of Ralph and Isabella Hall, who died July 11 1868 aged 16 years. In the midst of life we are in death"

### **Gravestone 30**

"Underneath lie the remains of Susan Sutcliffe, daughter of George Sutcliffe Cragg and Ann his wife, who died December 7th 1872 aged 3 years and 7 months. Also of the above George Sutcliffe Cragg who died August 27th 1875 aged 36 years. Watch therefore for ye know neither the day nor the hour Matthew XXv Chap 13 Verse. Susan Sutcliffe Cragg died June 25th 1874 aged 8 months. George Sutcliffe Cragg died July 10th 1874 aged 8 months 2 weeks. They sleep in Jesus"

### **Gravestone 31**

"In memory of Esther Wright died 4th day of February 1855 aged 72 years. Also John Moses Jones late of Foregate street in this city, died 5th day of March 1865 aged 58 years"

### **Gravestone 32**

"In memory of James Barlow Iron Master late of the Gwersyllt Iron Works near Wrexham who died 20th November 1856 aged 56 years"

### **Gravestone 33**

"In memory of James Burgess late of Liverpool. Ostrich feather Manufacturer. Who died February 27th 1858 aged 68 years"

### **Gravestone 34**

"Sacred to the memory of James Harvey Randell a native of Falmouth Cornwall and late of this City who died Jan 4th 1817 aged 75. He's gone alas no more to view. He's gone ? before. We hope to that celestial home where we could wish to go. Yet although we feel the loss of him so dear a friend his life he spent in doing good we trust he's gained a better end. Also of Martha wife of Wm Heath of Eastgate Street in this city who died Dec 22nd 1855 aged 37"

**Gravestone 35**

"In memory of the late Elizabeth Roberts, widow of the late Shadragh Roberts of this city, died April 3rd 1867 aged 72 years"

**Gravestone 36**

"In memory of William Holland late of Wrexham who died 8th April 1859 aged 55 years. Also James Hugh Holland who died April 26th 1859 aged 22 years"

**Gravestone 37**

"In memory of Elizabeth Turner who died January 5 1865 aged 84. John Turner of this City died January 10 1865 aged 72. Ann Pratt, sister of the above, died March 19 1865 aged 68"

**Gravestone 38**

"In memory of Joyce Griffith, wife of William Griffith, who died May 3 1859 aged 69 years"

**Gravestone 39**

"? to the memory of James Struht who departed his life November 18th 1818 aged 73. Mary Struht, wife of the above, who departed this life January 22nd 1829 aged 77 years. Jane Street, daughter ? above, who departed ? life August 10th 1853 aged 66 years ? in peace"

**Gravestone 40**

"In the memory of Ann Rowland, relict of the Rev. William Rowland Rector of Llansaintfread and Vicar of Llangorse in the County of Brecon died Feb 13th 1860 aged 76 years. Enter not into judgment with thy servant O Lord"

**Gravestone 41**

"Underneath lie the remains of Mary Welsby, wife of Henry Welsby, who departed this life January 23 1842 aged 69 years. Also Thomas Welsby, grandson to the above, who departed this life Oct 12th 1816 aged 2? years"

#### **Gravestone 42**

"? to the memory of Elizabeth ? of William Jones died October 9th 1846 aged 59 years. Also Sarah ? wife of the above who died June 8th 1860 aged 52 years. ? of the just is blessed. Proverbs Chap X Ver 7"

#### **Gravestone 43**

"Sacred to the memory of Thomas Priddin of this City who died the 8th of August 1860 aged 56 years. A loving husband and a companion dear, a faithful friend but lying here, who lived in love, and died in peace, I hope his joys will never cease"

#### **Gravestone 43**

"Affectionate remembrance of Joseph Dutton of Deva Terrace in this City who died January the 29th 1873 aged 74 years. Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord for they shall rest from their ?"

#### **Gravestone 44**

"In memory of Lucy, daughter of Henry and Sarah Haswell of this city who died June 20th 1856 aged 23 years. Her end was peace. Also Sarah the beloved wife of Henry Haswell and mother of the above who died January 3rd 1859 aged 51 years. Also Annie the beloved wife of Henry Haswell who died November 4th 1866 aged 33 years. Also Mary daughter of the above named Annie Haswell who died November 23rd 1866 aged 13 months. Emily Haswell daughter of Henry and Sarah Haswell died March 29th 1874 aged 26"

#### **Gravestone 45**

"In memory of Ann Bateman who died April 12 1858 aged 38 years. Also of Mary Fish, mother of the above, who died April 25 1863 aged 64 years"

#### **Gravestone 46**

"In memory of William Jones who departed this life the 30th of August 1858 aged 22 years. In life respected, in death lamented"

#### **Gravestone 47**

"Sacred to the memory of Betsy the beloved wife of T.A.Baker who departed this life July 8th 1864 in the 55 year of her age"

**Gravestone 48**

"In memory of John Gregory ? Foregate street in this city who departed this life on the 21 of February 1868 aged 72 years"

**Gravestone 49**

"In memory of David Jones who departed this life March 16th 1857 aged 59 years"