

The Church And Churchyard

Baslow is a small village in north Derbyshire. St Anne's Church started as a small chapel in the late 1200s and was greatly enlarged a century later. It is on the east banks of the river Derwent close to the old bridge, with Church Street to the north and Church Lane to the east.

The church yard has grown in size over the years and now completely surrounds the church. The earliest stone is dated 1648, but there is only one more before 1700. The church yard was closed (for inhumations) in 1990, with burials now in the adjacent Parish Council burial ground.

There are 850 Memorial Stones, with 1907 names written on them.

Mapping of Stones

The churchyard was mapped in 1989, and the position of all the stones marked on it. For the purposes of this survey, the area has been divided into four quadrants as show below. Each quadrant has several sections with rows of stones within them. Numbering of each quadrant, each section and each row starts in the south west. Viewed from the east, ie a position in Church Lane. they read from left to right like pages in a book.

Recording

The recording of inscriptions on the Gravestones was started in the mid 1980s by the Baslow Women's Union. I took over at a later date completing the project in the early 1990s. Each inscription was copied onto a form, which included further detail such as the type of stone, and it size shape and condition. These forms are now in the Derbyshire Records Office.

Subsequently the numbering was reorganised. An index of names, a list of names in each grave and a diagram showing their position was made, and has been available in the church ever since. All the gravestones have now been photographed, with digital copies in my possession.

Digitalisation of Inscriptions

In 2015, the full inscription on each stone was recorded digitally, using the photographs and the earlier handwritten forms. I acknowledge help from the Baslow History Group. Inevitably there will be transcription errors, (please tell me if you spot any). Some stone were difficult to read with occasional guesses. But remember some apparent "errors" are correctly copied from the original.

N.B. I have ignored the font, many capital letters and most of the original punctuation. Each line is separated by spaces and a "~"