

*Pear tree Church Walk* – final copy

**Starting outside the Church can talk about the following features then go in to the Churchyard (circular tour anti clockwise) then in to the Church.**

**Pear tree Green URC, Pear tree Green, Pear tree House, Jesus Chapel, War Memorial**

**Pear tree Green United Reformed Church** dates from 1840 having had its beginnings in a cottage and village reading society. It drew people from Bitterne, Sholing, Bitterne Park as well as Netley and West End. Comment made in a history book wonders at this, given the fact that this was before the motor car. Part of the chapel's history recalls the lighting arrangements. In 1855 candles were replaced by lamps, with gas following in 1872. By 1908 the chapel keeper was being required to open the building, arrange heating, lighting and ventilation, attend special meetings and help with the washing up and packing away of the china, for which services an extra 2/6 was to be paid. The keeper was also required to turn off the gas at the meter after all meetings and polish and clean the glass globes with care so delicate mantles were not disturbed.

In the late 1700s a Captain James Bryer lived hereabouts at **Pear tree Green**. Tradition has it that a Corsican schoolboy called Napoleon boarded a vessel at Havre le Grace bound for Southampton. Napoleon was looking for cheap lodgings and, with his lack of money and language problems, Capt Bryer took him home. Years later, Bryer realised that the young man had become the Emperor Napoleon so Bryer's first grandchild was given the name of Napoleon.

John Henry Petty, Second Marquis of Lansdowne who built the Gothic Castle once to be seen in Southampton lived at **Pear tree House** and was given sailing lessons by a Bryer. Not clear how successful these were as Petty nearly drowned in a boating accident off the West Quay. General Shrapnel who lived at one time in Bugle Street Southampton, came to live at Pear tree House and died there in 1842. He is buried at Bradford on Avon. Before coming to live in Southampton, Shrapnel experimented with hollow spherical projectiles filled with bullets and a bursting charge. He worked on reducing the bursting charge to the point where it was just sufficient to break the shell with as little as possible scattering effect on the bullets. In 1803 his invention was adopted for use in the army and in 1804, Shrapnel was appointed to Woolwich where he spent many years perfecting the invention. The new shell was first used in 1804 and the work on the invention cost Shrapnel many thousands of pounds. In 1814 he was given a pension of £1200. He was later promised a baronetcy but it never materialised. Shrapnel shells used at the Battle of Waterloo and it was said that the turn of the battle had depended on them.

**Pear tree Chapel** was first known as Jesus Chapel. (the outer extent of the original chapel can be pointed out outside but it is easier to explain the original church and the extensions to it when inside the building)

**War Memorial Cross.** 1914/18

A Barnes, H Bamford, A H Bell, S C E Brehaut, W Broadribb, N W Brown, W Browning, J S Budden, S H L Buxton, G P Cockburn, E Cummings, A Dorkin, A Ford, C E French, T Gifford, A Guy, F Hartridge, W J Hinton, A E Hiscock, P Holloway, R Horton, I Ings, A E Jopling, C Lilley, J Mackay, W Merritt, W Mosedale, P P Perrin, C M Pook, L K Pope, W Ray, F Redell, W

Rider, R Roberts, J H Shea, T Smith, R H Spake, C A Thompson, W C Wake, W H West, W A Yearsley, A G Young (42)

There is no standard form for war memorials so each community/benefactor decided on what was desirable. Woolston was not part of the Borough in the First World War so war memorials were erected out of the town as Woolston/Peartree men were not included on Southampton's Cenotaph. There are 40 names on this memorial all from the First World War. They include Norman Henderson Bell and Lance Corporal Albert Edward Jopling. Perhaps they knew one another and both were to die on the same day in the same battle. On 1 July 1916, the opening of the Battle of the Somme, Bell attacked with the Hampshire Regiment, Jopling with the London Regiment and neither has a known grave.

### **The Churchyard (starting at the gate by the War Memorial)**

#### **William Cooper Diaper**

Born 1821 christened in the chapel and buried here 1899. Lived at Itchen Ferry and was a fisherman Wife Ann Gibbons

#### **Henry Diaper**

Born 1814 died 1856 aged 51. Married Sarah Candy in St Mary's Parish in 1837. He was a fisherman and his wife in 1837 was described as a market woman.

#### **Mark Diaper**

1781 -1820. Born South Stoneham, married Frances Thompson 1808 in St Mary Parish. He drafted a will while dangerously ill but, before it could be signed, he suffered fits and died. Left his wife Frances and a 10 year old son, Mark. Estate valued at no more than £1500. Dispute over the guardianship of Mark Jnr. Documents indicate that, at Mark's request, the guardianship passed to his aunt Sarah Forder. Mark senior's draft will named as executors John Smith and William Forder. Money liquor and provisions went to his wife with furniture plate and linen for her lifetime which, after her death, would revert to son, Mark. When Mark reached 21 he was to receive £500 then £2500 at age 25. If Mark died without issue, then estate to be divided between Mark senior's two sisters. Frances' will – she was residing at the home of her son Mark at Albion Place - left goods valued at no more than £100 to her daughter in law, Rhoda, for her alone with a stipulation that they were not to be used by any current or future husband against debts. Frances made her mark as she was too ill to sign.

1 & 2 (214/215 on plan) **Hide** : *(Caroline Jane Hide died of scarlet fever 17 June 1850 aged 6 years 3 months 3<sup>rd</sup> daughter, and Charlotte Maria Hide 2<sup>nd</sup> daughter died of typhus fever 21 June 1850 aged 10 years 5 months, parents Charles and Maria Lawson Hide). Charles and Maria Lawson Hide would have stood here for the burial of their daughter Charlotte Jane who died on 17 June 1850. She was their third daughter and was 6 years and 3 months. She died of scarlet fever. Just a few days later Charles and Maria stood here to bury their second daughter. Charlotte Maria was 10 years and 5 months and was probably very ill when her sister died four days earlier. Charlotte died of typhus. The girls had separate graves but there is no monumental record of the parents or the eldest child being buried here. These are flat stones and only Caroline's can be read. The stones are just north east of the Mackie stone*

3 (234 on plan) **Mackie:** *David Mackie Chief Engineer lost in Royal Mail Steamship Humber on passage New York/London 18 February 1885 aged 37. NB date wrongly transcribed in records of inscriptions as 1855. The stone is near the railings of the churchyard behind a tree that presumably was not there in 1885 otherwise stone could not have been read without peering round it. NB Mackie not buried there as body never recovered*

The Humber was an iron screw ship built at Govan in 1880 and belonging to the Royal Mail Steamship Company who named their vessels after rivers. On 15 February 1885, with David Mackie as her chief engineer, the Humber left New York with a crew of 65 and general cargo on board, bound for London. She discharged her pilot outside Sandy Hook and continued with the voyage. Nothing more was seen or heard of her and in August 1885 the Commissioners of Wrecks had to decide what might have happened to her. It was accepted that in terms of construction the Humber was a first class ship. She was originally intended for the China trade but was bought by RMSP Co to use for their run between England, the West Indies Brazil and the River Plate. Royal Mail then extended their operations to include New York and carried out work to make the Humber suitable for the Atlantic run. The Humber had frequently crossed to the West Indies but this was her first North Atlantic voyage. No reason to suppose hatchways, ventilators and deck openings were a source of danger. The pilot said that there was nothing to show that there was anything wrong with the equipment or seaworthiness of the Humber. Although she was deeply laden, the Enquiry stopped short of saying she was overladen and there was no reason to think that she was unstable. Mackie, as chief engineer, had sent reports from every port except New York that the engines and boilers worked very well and there was nothing wrong with them.. What could have caused the loss of the ship? The pilot told of a very heavy gale blowing the next day, a hurricane from the south and east, and that he had told the captain that he did not think the Humber exactly adapted to the Atlantic trade as she would hold a great deal of water on deck if struck by a heavy sea. The Humber could, therefore, have foundered in the hurricane. Another possibility brings shades of the Titanic. Vessels leaving New York were given North Atlantic charts indicating the probable position of ice and the route expedient for vessels to take. Probability is that the Humber was given the February chart and used that to steer a course. However, the March chart showed the ice had extended further south than anticipated in February. If the Humber was following the February chart, the ship could well have become embedded in the ice and lost in that way.

### **The Anchor: Stote.**

The anchor can mean hope or have a maritime symbolism. Often seen on headstones or as a carving forming part of a grave.

### **The School**

When William Henry Head took over the school on 5 April 1869 he began to make notes recording what he found and how his time there developed. Head was a certificated teacher, 2<sup>nd</sup> class, and Annie Louisa Head (his sister) was uncertificated. He found, at the school, 117 pupils of whom 66 were girls. There was no register and nearly all the first morning was taken with taking the names of the children, marking their pence and attendance and endeavouring to keep order. The only teachers were himself, his sister and a female monitor. There were 4 class groups – the 4<sup>th</sup> was taken by a boy or girl from 1<sup>st</sup> class. Boys and girls were grouped together but in the afternoon each had its own division of the room and the girls were employed in needlework

under the superintendence of Miss Head and the monitor. Boys were classified as in the morning, with three from the First Class taking classes. In taking the First Class, Head found the reading painfully monotonous and almost unintelligible from the disregard of punctuation. The arithmetic extended from simple subtraction to weights and measures. The teachers at the other classes, he recorded, were of very little use. They sat and played with the children and were noisy in the extreme. The arrangement of classes was according to the old system. A desk ran nearly all the way round the school at which the writing on paper was to be done. This would accommodate one class. At other times, the class was in a hollow square formed by benches. One side of the square was occupied by a box containing the class books etc on which the teacher had been accustomed to sit. Each child was supposed to find its own slate. Some had none while others had odd pieces of 3 square inches and upwards and that accounted for much of the noise and confusion. Rev TLO Davies and Miss Davies were in school both morning and afternoon.

6 April 1869 – Morning service at church each day at 9 o'clock. The boys and girls of the first class went. They met Miss Davies at the gate as the bell rang and returned to the school about 9.30. This arrangement enabled Head to question the second class by themselves and to test their Bible knowledge but either the novelty of answering individually and showing of hands when they knew the answer must have seized them, or they were unacquainted with the subject. From these or other causes Head could only obtain a few wild answers from two or three. Miss Head took the third class with much the same result. The monitor had the fourth class but, as she had no idea of giving a lesson, the result was half an hours noise. The 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> classes now had scripture lessons. Not having the pence to collect, Head was able to attend to the first class where he found the girls read about the same as the boys but almost inaudibly. In arithmetic, numeration, simple subtraction and division the first class pupils were weak, only two knew the pence table. The bad writing and dirty copybook were, in great measure, owing to the situation of the desks, in a full school the necessary supervision was impossible. In the afternoon, having the boys alone the first and second classes commenced reading the letters on political economy from the Irish Fourth Book – from a frequent reading of the same passage they acquired the proper emphasis.

8 April: Having had the occasion to punish a boy for his impudence, his sister began to be abusive and threatened Head with maternal vengeance so that he expelled both.

The Trust Deed for Peartree School is 17 May 1848 and there is a trust deed for the Infant School of 1 October 1856. There was a proposal for an Industrial School in 1859 and a. Conveyance of land for such a school on 11 October 1859. Mr Wilson of Oak Lodge had intended to build a school where cookery could be taught but he was not satisfied with the site conveyed. As there was considerable opposition to the granting of the site which he wanted to be on the west side of the School, the whole scheme fell through.

5 & 6 (170/172 on plan) **Richard Parker:** *Richard Parker aged 17 who died at sea July 24 1884 after 19 days suffering in an open boat in the tropics having been wrecked in the yacht Mignonette ( The HGS survey of the headstones refers here to Sarah Parker who died 6 January 1898 aged 68 but this cannot be Richard's mother?)*

7 (146 on plan) **Vaughan:** Stone now missing – appears to have been where the little tarmac path goes off towards the north east corner of the Church. *Erected by members and friends of Peartree Green Cricket Club TTMO of Frederick Vaughan 18 September 1887 aged 19*

Sudden death was often a feature of Victorian newspaper reports. Frederick Vaughan lived at Hope Cottage, Church Road, Woolston and worked for the Ordnance Survey. He had a cold but told his father he was going to church. Father went on ahead, turned round, saw his son following then heard a great rattle of wires by the side of the road and found his son collapsed. Death was found to be from congestion of the lungs. He was a member of Court Florence Nightingale of the Ancient Order of Foresters and many members of that and other Courts attended the funeral and bore him to the grave. Above the wreaths were two green sashes of the AOF in the shape of a cross with a ribbon indicating that Frederick Vaughan had occupied the highest position of honour in his Court. He had also been a member of the church choir. Before leaving the grave, members of the AOF dropped a small piece of thyme on top of the coffin, this being their usual and established custom.

8 (293 on plan) **Jurd :** Stone face down just below and to the south of James, face down, inscription cannot be read. *James Jurd drowned off Town Quay from fishing smack Eliza 25 June 1847 aged 40 and son who was drowned in the sinking of the yacht Daisy in Southampton Water and who was found and buried in this churchyard 25 July 1856 aged 19*

James Jurd, his brother William and a lad named Parker were out fishing in the hired vessel, William and Eliza. They came up to the Quay and James Jurd carried the basket of fish they had caught to the saleswoman at the market (Southampton market in the High Street). He returned on board and the yacht was just below the Platform where James Jurd began to take in the reef of a mainsail. The wind blowing fresh, the mainsheet cast off and the boom against which Jurd was leaning, gave way. In the water, Jurd did not have the energy to grab a rope attached to the boat. William Jurd and Parker jumped in but before they could grab James Jurd, he sank. The accident was seen from the Royal Southern Yacht Club but it took an hour to find and recover the body. Jurd left a widow and seven children for whom he was the bread winner and the newspaper ascertained that at the time of Jurd's death, there was not a farthing in the house. At the Inquest, the fishermen and watermen on the jury gave their fees to the widow and 'a trifle was collected among others as poor as herself'. She and her seven orphans appeared to be in a state of utter destitution and the local newspaper, Southampton Advertiser, commended their case to the notice of a humane public asking for a small subscription to enable the widow to keep the market or to do something for a subsistence. They said that Mr Maddison would receive subscriptions as also Mr Cole, fishmonger, Above Bar. Have not yet found an obituary for the son who died in 1856. If the family had no money, this stone would have been paid for by someone else but no other member of the, large, family seems to have been recorded on it.

9 (291 on plan) **James:** *includes Robert Henry James KIA France 28 September 1918 and mother and child accidentally drowned Lake Victoria Gippsland Australia 7 October 1888.* Tomb with a great deal of family history on it. References to Eaglehurst, Lake Victoria Gippsland Australia and to Ridgeway, Lake Victoria Gippsland, Australia. Looks as if the name of Ridgeway was taken out to Australia. The original building in the area, built around 1795, was Ridgeway Castle, a castellated mansion with grounds extending down to the River Itchen. Ridgeway Castle was demolished around 1855. Smaller house built and just before the end of the 19th century Ridgeway was home for a few years to the jockey, Mornington Cannon. His

Christian name can be traced to the activity of his father who was a jockey. On the day Cannon was born, his father rode a horse called Mornington to victory at Bath. Name passed to son as did talents in horsemanship. Mornington was 13 when he rode his first winner. He was leading jockey and champion 6 times. Did not like American crouching style and made a slight concession by hitching up stirrup leathers a notch or two. Retired to Brighton where he lived for many years. Mornington Cannon's great nephew is Lester Piggott.

There is a reference on the tomb to Elizabeth Maria, widow of A S Wilson born 27 May 1854 and Walter Rawson, their son born 8 December 1880. The inscriptions record that mother and child were accidentally drowned in Lake Victoria Gippsland Australia on 7 October 1888. Commemorated, too, are Catherine wife of Charles James died 4 October 1910 at Ridgeway Lake Victoria, Gippsland Australia and Charles James her husband who died 8 November 1918 aged 72. Charles James lived to hear of his son's death in the First World War and the Australian connection with the tomb is maintained in the First World War commemoration. Robert Henry James was born in Victoria Australia and was a 27 year old Gunner with the Australian Field Artillery. He died on 29 September 1918 and is buried at Templeux-Le-Guerard British Cemetery, 26 km east of Peronne, France where 750 casualties are commemorated. James has a grave but nearly a quarter of those commemorated there are unidentified.

10 (42 on plan) **Family tragedies and a mystery** *Charles Jeffrey died 27 July 1861 Richard and Henry twin sons of Charles and Sarah Jeffrey who died 25 December 1855 aged 4 days. Sarah wife of above Charles Jeffrey died 15 February 1913 in her 94<sup>th</sup> year. Ernest, son of the above, lost his life in the Persia torpedoed by the enemy 30 December 1915. The headstone is upright, facing west and two stones down from Macnaghten.*

SS Persia was a passenger liner. The story is reminiscent of that of Titanic, the ship having lain undiscovered for many years then being located..On 30 December 1915 the Persia left Valletta, Malta to go to the Suez Canal. The Persia was torpedoed, without warning, by a German submarine. About 158 people survived, but 330 men women and children died. On board was the then Lord Montagu with his secretary (and mistress) Eleanor Thornton. He survived and she died. Montagu helped to design the insignia for Rolls Royce and the winged female figure on the front of the car – The Spirit of Ecstasy - is based on Eleanor Thornton. The variety of people on the ship included the entourage of a Maharajah who decided, at the last moment, not to travel himself.. The Persia was carrying treasure, (then £10M, value now £50M including gold silver diamonds and rubies. Included in this treasure are jewels of the Maharajah (c£1M). .

A salvage company has recently located (there was a TV programme a few weeks ago) and brought items up from the ship. Rubies have been found but not the gold. The Receiver of Wreck has now to try to find the rightful owner and if so found, the salvage company will receive a salvage award. If the rightful owner cannot be found after a year and a day, the salvage company becomes entitled to the items if recovered in international waters.

11 (24 on map) **Macnaghton:**. Large enclosed tomb but very overgrown. *May Katherine wife of Sir Steuart Macnaghten of Bitterne Manor House, Southampton son of late Sir Francis Workman Macnaghten Bt 13 February 1843 d 2 November 1906 STTMO Sir Steuart Macnaghten son of late Sir Francis Workman Macnaghten of Bushmills House Co Antrim b 20 June 1815 interred 28 June 1885. At the top is Rock of ages cleft for me. Macnaghton tomb is east of the large cross with Atherley on it*

Macnaghton was born on the day the Battle of Waterloo took place. The family origins were in Scotland. He was a classical scholar of great renown. Trained as a barrister and became Chairman of the Southampton Magistrates. He was in every respect a kind, genial, thorough English gentleman, esteemed and respected by all. Involved with management of Royal South Hants Infirmary and was the originator of the 1<sup>st</sup> Hants Artillery Volunteers which started out as the Bitterne Artillery Corps, Macnaghten being its first commander. He was for many years the Chairman of the Southampton Dock Company (can include here a bit about the history of the Dock Company) and was one of those presented to Queen Victoria when she came to Southampton to open the Empress Dock. It was after this that he received a knighthood. The evening of the opening of the Dock, Macnaghten gave a party at Bitterne Manor for some 200 people using a thousand fairy lamps to illuminate the grounds, there were fireworks and the visitors were presented with a copy of an ode to the Queen. Not clear if and when this was read to the Queen:

V ictoria Queen and Empress , thou who rul'st supreme  
I n regions more than earth's diameter, afar  
C an duteous subjects hail a more auspicious rite  
T han that designed for this Inauguration day  
O f works subservient to the glory of thy realm?  
R ightly may we thy gracious benediction own  
I n this emprise proclaiming, as from shore to shore,  
A bond of brothership beneath a parent's sway

12 (28 on map) **Davies** *Thomas Lewis Owen Davies Vicar otp 1860-1917 born March 2 1833. (Although the churchyard was closed for burials in 1903, this is a family plot, pre-dating that time, so Rev Davies could be, and is, buried here)*

Vicar for 57 years. For the funeral over 2000 people gathered at the churchyard and the church was full. Succeeded, as Vicar, his cousin Rev Sylvester Davies who wrote A History of Southampton. T L O Davies was very much a social historian and wrote Historical Notes for the Southampton Times. He formed church cricket club on Peartree Green. (Can connect back to Vaughan). In 1910, on 50th anniversary of becoming vicar, presents were given for the church rather than for himself – a reredos of Caen stone and a new porch step. T L O Davies recorded much about the history of the Church and churchyard. From him, we know that in 1872 there was an injunction from Vice Chancellor Wickens restraining any enclosure of any part of Peartree Green. The churchyard had originally been consecrated in the afternoon of 17 September 1620, the church having been consecrated in the morning. In 1847 an addition to the Churchyard was consecrated at the time the new north aisle was opened. In 1852 attention was called by Mr Lewin of Ridgeway to the number of non parishioners buried at Peartree and after consultation with the Bishop a memo was entered in the Vestry Book providing:

1. Ground should be marked out to prevent unnecessary waste
2. No burial of non parishioners permitted except in cases where near relative of the deceased already interred there.
3. That such should under no circumstances be allowed vaults
4. That a certain discretion in carrying out the above should be given to the then incumbent.
5. 1858 Vestry Resolution that the rules were to be strictly observed which it was alleged was not the case. Since then little or no infringement of regulations.

Problems arose over available space for burials. Some relief came by the provision of a churchyard at Weston 1865 and at Sholing in 1866 but something else was needed. In 1871 there was the possibility of the purchase for £50, from Mr Chamberlayne, of piece of land off Sholing Lane. It was not far from the church. At a Vestry meeting on, one of the parishioners was willing to give the £50 but opinion was divided, strong wishes in favour being opposed by strong desires to enlarge the churchyard by enclosing a further portion of the Green. Those who wanted to take in a further part of the Green had the matter referred to the Ecclesiastical Commissioners who at first refused grant. But after the intervention of Bishop Wilberforce, consent was given to take, for churchyard purposes, so much of the Green as was bounded by the roadways around the church. J H Forbes of Merryoak was very adverse to enclosing any more of the Green and wanted Chamberlayne's ground be purchased. A poll was taken on 20/12/1871 resulting in a large majority for taking in the Green. Mr Forbes applied to the Court of Chancery for an injunction. and obtained one in November 1872. All ended well. The Vicar had been in favour of enclosure as he had not believed it would have interfered with the Green as a place of recreation. He came to be glad that the scheme failed as the sudden increase in the population of Peartree and Woolston - which occurred through the establishment of Oswald and Mordaunt's shipyard - would have filled up any extension to the churchyard more rapidly than anticipated. The last interment inside church was on 26 August 1852.

13 (268 on map) **Bowyer:** *James Thomas Bowyer Trinity Pilot 15 December 1871 aged 57. Just to north of Rosoman, close to the railings just in front of a bush*

His obituary recorded that he had been 'Suffering lately from an attack of paralysis which lately came on with renewed vigour and to which he succumbed to the great grief of a large circle of friends'. In early life he was a well known yacht sailor and was for some time in the service of Sir James Carnac aboard the *Heroine*, an old antagonist of the celebrated *Alarm* in John Nicholls days of glory. A first class pilot very much respected by P & O, North German Lloyd and Hamburg American and many other companies and vessels he had steered with skill and safety for many years. One claim to fame was the piloting of Brunel's *Great Eastern* into Southampton. Joined her at Holyhead and took the ship in and out of the river with great facility and ease and attended to her while safely moored in the river notwithstanding the tempestuous weather when her commander Captain Harrison was drowned in the Docks. Harrison was highly regarded by Brunel who had recommended him as captain of the *Great Eastern*. The *Great Eastern*, designed by Brunel, was at time of launch in 1858 the largest ship in the world. Commercial failure as passenger ship, became a cable laying ship and was scrapped in 1888. The *Great Eastern* was the third of Brunel's projects, the *Great Western* being the first and the *Great Britain*, the second. GE was perhaps jinxed. Shipbuilders believed that any delay between naming ceremony and the launching brought bad luck. 11 November 1857 GE ready for launch, 10,000 people there, champagne bottle smashed. A ship moved, accident killed a workman and injured five others. Problems with launching meant that she inched towards the river at Bristol and finally entered the water the end of January 1858. In the meantime became an object of fun. Suggestion to turn her into casino, circus or music hall. On her sea trials, 9 September 1859, some boilers exploded killing six firemen. Grand saloon devastated but ship survived. The pall bearers for Bowyer were 6 masters of yachts with which he was associated during his life. The pall, the pilot flag, was placed in the grave with the coffin. Ships in the Docks had their flags flying half mast.

14 (1 on map) **Rosoman:** *Monument erected by wish of R H Rosoman. Richard Robert Loane Rosoman 11 November 1864 aged 67, Ann Rosoman wife of the above 11 December 1862 aged 53, Margaret Augusta R 3 December 1850 aged 81, Ellen Matilda daughter 10 October 1907 aged 79, Ellen Augusta 6 October 1866 16 days, Rosomund Ann Louisa 19 August 1866 aged 1 year 10 days Margaret Gabrielle 28 November 1871 6 months 6 days Thomas Herbert 1 December 1872 3 days dear little children of Richard and Rosamund Rosoman Reuben Henry Rosoman 30 September 1872 aged 37 Louisa Harriet Rosoman wife of the above 20 May 1865 aged 23 Rosamund Carlton wife of Richard Robert Loane Rosoman 26 July 1880 ?years Richard Robert Loane Rosoman drowned in the Stella disaster off Casquet Rocks 30 March 1899 aged 72 Frederick Adolphus Rosoman 25 August 1916 aged 78 cremated at Woking and his wife Ann Maria Rosoman 24 October 123 cremated at Woking*

Family has left its mark on the area with names of Rosoman and Loane Roads. R R L Rosoman who died in the Stella was very active in ensuring that Peartree Green remained an open space. Story of the Stella, infant mortality and cremation. Practicality of taking a body all the way to Woking for cremation than back to Southampton for interment of ashes. Cremation Society formed 1874, Built a crematorium at Woking 1879. Problem was that the Home Office would not authorise cremation and made it clear that anyone involved would be prosecuted. A horse was cremated at Woking to make sure everything worked. The challenge came not in England but in Wales at Llantrissant. Dr Price, who did not believe in burial, attempted to cremate his infant son on his own land using petrol. Villagers rushed in and put out the flames retrieving part of the burned body. Price was charged with attempting to cremate a body. Judge in 1884, Mr Justice Stephen, went through all the authorities and could find nothing that made cremation illegal. He ruled that cremation was not unlawful provided no nuisance was caused and Price was acquitted. In Southampton there were wrangles between those who wanted a crematorium and the ratepayers who considered it an unnecessary expense. Nothing in Southampton when the Rosomans died so Woking had to be used. First Crematorium in Southampton was not until 1932 at South Stoneham.

15 (324 on map) **Cooper:** *William Cooper upwards of 30 years Sergeant at Mace Southampton 20 November 1846 aged 68. To the south of Rosoman*

An office that still exists but William Cooper's time in the office spanned two different periods. – before and after the Municipal Corporations Reform Act 1835. Southampton's Town Sergeants had, and still have, a duty of attendance on the Mayor and Corporation. Before 1835 they were sworn officers to execute all attachments, arrests and so forth within the town and precincts. Before the 1835 Act, two of them were gaolers, one of the debtors' the other of the felons' prison, a third collected the tolls of the poultry and vegetable market and the fourth was water bailiff. There were four sergeants at mace who used to be elected by the 'twelve men at the common assembly in the Guildhall' and could only be removed in the same way (1548) and in the 17<sup>th</sup> century they were commonly known as beadles. After the Act of 1835 there were only two sergeants at mace who, with the Town Cryer were attendants on the Corporation and Justices. Scandals relating to Parliamentary representation – the Rotten Boroughs – were addressed by the 1832 Reform Act. It was then decided to tackle the Municipal Corporations. There were about 250 but in about 180 only members of the Corporation were allowed to vote usually re-electing themselves and bringing friends and relatives on to the Council. Power was held by a small number of people. because few townsfolk could vote. The Commission found that funds were frequently expended in feasting and paying salaries of unimportant officers. Sometimes more

spent than necessary. Abuses resulted from obliging members of their own body, friends and relations of such members. 1835 Act addressed various matters:

Borough councils to be elected by all male ratepayers who had lived in the town for 3 years/councillors elected for 3 years at a time and one third of council elected annually/councillors to choose the mayor to hold office for one year/councillors to choose a group of Aldermen who would hold office for 6 years/each Borough to have paid town clerk and treasurer with accounts properly audited/councils required to form a police force/councils could take over social improvements eg drainage and street cleaning if they wished. Although there was a system of voting it favoured the middle classes as few working men wealthy enough to be ratepayers. Act established principal of elected town councils. 2006 Town Sergeants – 18 – variety of tasks including reception, chauffeuring, security, confidential waste, attendance on Mayor and Council. Southampton's oldest mace bears the arms of Henry VII. Today, each Council meeting is preceded by the formal carrying of two of the four city maces and ceremonial Oar of Admiralty dating from 1451. One town sergeant has been killed on duty – George Brown was killed with others including 15 school children when a German bomb fell on the art gallery at the Civic Centre in 1940 destroying a shelter.

Cooper may have been involved in a shamble surrounding a Court Leet in the late 1830s. The officials including the Mayor would ride and beat the bounds of the town. On this occasion, the crier, Town Sergeant, the other Sergeants and the Court Leet jury, all mounted, went up Hill Lane. They essayed their swiftest horsemanship and travelled at speed, the rest all posting as if for their lives. Matters went from bad to worse following a feast for the main procession and an ample supply of beer for the multitude at the Cowherds Inn. Was to lead to abandonment of the Court Leet until well in to the 20<sup>th</sup> Century.

16 (330) **Munday**: *Samuel William Munday killed in Empress Dock Southampton 28 December 1893 aged 28/33? Standing by Cooper looking at the river go forward and turn left then in front of two stones the Munday stone is flat*

He was a shipwright by trade aged 24 and one of three men who lost their lives in an explosion at the Empress Dock (link back to Macnaghten). The quay wall on the western side of the dock basin alongside which the Royal Yacht was brought when Queen Victoria came to open the Dock was being strengthened. As part of this a huge cylinder weighing some 7 or 8 tons was being sunk into the clay and docks workers were inside working on it. Suddenly the cylinder shot into the air and Munday one of those working inside it was killed. Some doubt as to the cause of such an accident as other cylinders had been successfully lowered. The cylinder had been sunk some four feet into the clay which should have made it safe for men to work on it. The theory put forward, accepted by the Inquest Jury, was that the cylinder must have pierced through the clay and the cutting edge cut into water bearing strata and the force of the water shot the cylinder up into the air. The Jury did not find anyone to be culpable and returned a verdict of accidental death.

### **Lt Smith**

Buried somewhere in this churchyard, a memorial that once existed having been lost, is Lieut Smith. During the Napoleonic Wars, soldiers were stationed near Southampton ready for embarkation. One such camp was at Netley Common. In July 1912 a duel was fought there between Lieut Smith and Ensign Obree of the 9<sup>th</sup> (East Norfolk) Regiment of Foot.. Smith had

given the first provocation by calling Obree a scoundrel and a rascal. Smith had then apologised and the matter was amicably settled. However, Smith, feeling himself not satisfied took the opportunity of using nearly the same expressions before the tent of Obree and even went to the (duelling) ground on the day preceding the actual duel prepared to fight but Obree had declined saying that he had sufficient proofs of his courage on the Continent. Then, Obree finding himself under the necessity of fighting or be upbraided with the name of coward by his fellow officers chose the former. The ground being measured Mr Smith fired first and Mr Obree then fired hitting Smith the ball entering the right side of the head and killing Smith. The Coroner's jury sat twice and returned a verdict of manslaughter. Obree gave bail for his appearance at the next assizes and his second absconded. Smith was interred with military honours.

### **Inside the Church**

**If there are a lot of people, it is easiest to have them seated, talk about the history of the Church generally then move round the church while the audience remains where it is, pointing out the features of interest that they can go and see later on.**

Jesus Chapel was the first church built in England after the Reformation. The Romans had a fort/port/settlement at Bitterne Manor and in Norman times a house was built there. In the latter days of Elizabeth I it was owned by Francis Mylles one time secretary to Sir Francis Walsingham and an MP for Winchester. He obtained permission from the Bishop to cart stone to Ridgway Heath – Peartree Green – to build a new house. When the Romans left Britain around 410AD the old site at Bitterne Manor became a source for stone. New house called Peartree House. Around 1617 Captain Richard Smith living at Peartree House. Area was part of the old Parish of St Mary, the mother church of Southampton just across the River. Difficult to get there as there was no bridge so that boats had to be used or a long round trip. There was no bridge at Northam till 1799. Captain Smith felt the need for a chapel at Peartree for spiritual and practical purposes. A burial ground was also required as the common burial ground was at St Marys and the problems of getting corpses there led to burials being made in fields east of the Itchen. Permission for a Chapel was given and stone brought from Bitterne Manor. There was delay in consecrating the church as Rector of St Marys wanted to make sure that he did not miss out – lesson of the Friary. 1233/1420 no doubt made him intent on safeguarding his perks. Required that marriage and burial fees still had to go to St Marys. Additionally the parishioners of Jesus Chapel were to be responsible for the maintenance of their chapel and also contribute to St Marys, at that time in a ruinous state. There was also a requirement to attend Holy Communion at St Marys at Easter and Whitsun unless dispensation was granted. The state of subjection was later referred to as being like in slavery to Rector of St Marys. On 17 September 1620 Jesus Chapel was consecrated by Bishop Lancelot Andrews, the church in the morning and the burial ground in the afternoon. There was no set service for consecration so Bishop wrote his own and that has become accepted as the standard form for consecrating new churches. When Lancelot Andrews came to consecrate the church he noted it was very small – 50 and a half feet west east and 20 and a half feet north south. The South Transept, and porch, added 1822, Church new roofed, slates being substituted for tiles, north aisle 1847. The north aisle was designed by George Guillaume who was also the architect for the Church of the Holy Saviour in Bitterne and whose designs for the Central Parks and Marsh Estate were accepted when those areas were being laid out in the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Towards the end of 1871, church was lighted with gas £87 being raised by subscription for this. The Chancel dates from 1883..

The problems of crossing the river lasted until there was a floating bridge in 1836. Not until 1881 was the ministry of Jesus Chapel freed from St Marys when Jesus Chapel had a Vicar in its own right.

The front pews of the church ie towards the altar have evidence that once they were locked indicating the reservation for particular people. The back pews show no evidence of locks. Division between the congregation.

In the 1939/45 war, during enemy raids there was no direct hit nor, with the exception of one anti aircraft shell do anything fall in the churchyard. However, concussion from anti personnel bombs to the west and larger HEs to the east brought down most of the plaster roofing and caused considerable shaking of the fabric and complete destruction of the majority of the stained glass. The east windows and small windows in the Sanctuary and charity windows are all that escaped. When renovation was carried out it was found necessary to roof in the nave thereby concealing old beams which with their axe markings wee a great feature of the church. Alterations had improved acoustics of the church. And the removal of the stained glass had lightened the interior but necessitated the cleaning of all the brass plates which otherwise were very dingy.

### **Monuments and memorials**

On the west wall there is an imposing monument dating from 1819 of a seated figure. Next to that, moving north, is a memorial to William Chamberlayne of Cranbury Park and Weston Grove who died 8 December 1829. Under a drape is shown the head of Chamberlayne facing north. Bring in the Cobbett connection here. Next to William Chamberlayne is a memorial to his sister Charlotte Chamberlayne, who died 18 March 1831.

Chamberlayne associated with Weston Grove (tell the story of William and the Gas Company). Later Chamberlayne was Thomas Chamberlayne who purchased a yacht called the Arrow on which an Itchen Ferry man was mate. Entered a race round the Isle of Wight in 1851 in which an American vessel, the America, competed. 15 yachts took part including the Arrow. Confusion of instructions so that not all the yachts followed the same course. The Arrow was one of four yachts that went round the outside of the Nab Tower while the others including America went on the inside. The Arrow ran aground on rocks off Ventnor. Seems some of the other yachts gave up the race as America seemed far superior. Queen Victoria having been told who was first asked who came second and was told 'Your majesty, there is no second'. In 1897 for Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee, all the schoolchildren of Woolston were given a party by Mr and Mrs Tankerville Chamberlayne. The children and teachers wearing red white and blue rosettes marched to Weston Grove House, each child having as a memento the top part of a ticket containing a portrait of Queen Victoria with the dates 1837-1897.

After Charlotte Chamberlayne, turn left then go to the west wall where there is a door. To the left of the door is Laura Bradby died 19 November 1901 with an art nouveau plaque on the wall.

Go under the arch and look back and up for the 1618 foundation stone. May originally have had the founder's coat of arms on it but nothing is now legible. The line of the arches from here here towards the altar would have been the line of the original outer wall of the 1618 chapel. On the

west wall just having gone through the arch is a memorial to **Captain Robert Scott RN** who was in command of HMS Boreas when the ship was wrecked on the Hanois Rocks Guernsey on 29 November 1807. There is a depiction underneath of the shipwreck. Hampshire Chronicle reported that they were concerned to announce the loss of the Boreas of 22 guns, Captain Scott of the Jersey Station. She ran upon a sunken rock near the island and sank immediately. The Captain, officers and crew all perished except two officers and between 40 and 50 men. When HMS Boreas sank, there was a loss of 127 lives. A Guernsey website records that one of the forts on the Island has a large blot on its history. HMS Boreas foundered on Les Hanois rocks and it would have been possible to save life had the militiamen at Fort Perezies raised the alarm. This would have alerted other posts that could have mobilised a large rescue effort. It seems the reason militiamen were not as aware as they should have been was the posting on guard, at the time, of females and invalids. At Fort Grey on Guernsey is one of the cannon from HMS Boreas that points towards the reef where the ship sank in 1807. There is a 'connection' with Nelson as he commanded an earlier ship called HMS Boreas (the second of that name). Nelson's Boreas was sold off in 1802 after the Peace of Amiens being 28 years old and of no further use to the Navy.

Going on round to the north wall there is a reference to **Richard Robert Loane Rosoman** and the Stella. Under a draped urn, part hidden, is a polished brass to **Sir Steuart Macnaghton of Bitterne Manor House** who died 28 June 1895 (link to tomb in churchyard). A large memorial on the north wall depicts a mother and child (rather heavy) at a pillar. Bringing the child to the grave? Beloved respected regretted.

Underneath is a polished bronze to Frank L F de Chaumont who died in an accident at Orbow Canada 26 May 1906 and Edmund A F de Chaumont drowned in the Indian Ocean 19 September 1897 sons of the late **Prof F de Chaumont MD FRS of the Army Medical School Netley** (Dr Watson connection). Prof de C was a Scot of French extraction on his father's side. Served with the Rifle Brigade in the Crimea 1855 and became Professor of Military Hygiene at Netley 1869-1888. Inspected and reported on hospitals, barracks and public buildings. He was also the first President of The Hampshire Field Club. Buried at St Mary Extra in a funeral attended by all the staff at Netley Hospital.

On this north wall are plaques mentioning **Col O(swald) A Grimston** of The Lodge, Peartree. Served in the Crimea, was a Deputy Lieutenant of Hampshire and became a member of Hampshire County Council when it was formed. Opinions on Local Government principles highly valued and he became an Alderman with the County Council. Very much involved in yacht racing and was a Rear Commodore of the Royal Southampton Yacht Club. He was a churchwarden of Jesus Chapel and Chairman of the Management Committee of the Royal South Hants Hospital.

Moving along the north wall there is a memorial to Lewis Shedden late Captain in 15 Hussars of **Bittern Manor House** died 15 January 1844. Has angels over an army hat. Bitterne Manor is on the site of Clausentum. In 12/13C substantial manor house of stone was there belonging to Bishops of Winchester. When the Northam Bridge was built the house opened as a hotel but did not attract enough business and reverted to a residence with mock battlements put on around 1805 and walls plastered. In 19 C house was restored enlarged and embellished as a Victorian Country Mansion. Home of Sir Steuart Macnaghten, and his daughter lived there after his death until

1895. Herbert Collins the architect became familiar with house and grounds through Miss Macnaghten, a campaigner for humane slaughter of animals. 1899 most of grounds sold for development. In World War II, incendiaries landed in roof and a land mine in the garden. House was left in ruins and became vandalised. Stucco peeled off revealed medieval walls. Building deemed beyond repair but Herbert Collins prepared a scheme of conversion of the property into 14 flats although the Local Authority intended to have a public open space with the ruins in the middle. Collins' scheme was to use remainder of medieval walls and remains of Victorian wings in his conversion. In 1951 the house was auctioned and Collins bought it. Council agreed his proposals on condition that three quarters of the estate became a public open space. Working between 1952/54 Collins' scheme restored the house to original medieval form. Victorian features removed and some medieval ones restored. Foundations of a Roman bath house on the site preserved. Inspector of Ancient Monuments was very impressed impressed at the way Collins had given Bitterne Manor House another lease of life. 'Few Norman houses which have so much old work to show after such a complicated history and you have caused it to flourish once more'.

At the end of the north side are two memorials side by side to people who lived at **Chessel House** where flaming torches are shown upside down – symbol of life extinct. Chessel was built in 1796 for David Lance who was sheriff of Southampton in 1807. Views of River Itchen and took several years to complete. When Jane Austen and her family moved to Southampton they were visited by the Lances and returned the visit, Jane also later referring to the Lance daughters at a Ball at The Dolphin. Jane used to come over by Itchen Ferry and walk up to Chessel House then back over the Northam Bridge to Southampton. The Lances left Chessel about 1820. In 1840 it passed to the Richardsons who owned it till around 1906, William Henry Richardson of that family being generous to the poor of neighbourhood. In 1911 it was sold to developers and demolished 1920s, the entrance Lodge and the name Chessel, with Lances Hill, being the tangible reminders. Chessel House, Bitterne Manor, Weston Grove are to the big houses of the time and show the connections with the church.

Coming round from the north to the east wall there is a stained glass panel possibly being a reference to Isaiah Chapter 6 where there is reference to covering wings. The altar table is Jacobean and very heavy. The wooden cross in the window has a plaque on the back saying that it is made of oak from the ancient wood of the cathedral of St Swithun in Winchester.

In the right hand corner of this wall is a memorial to Preston **Hulton** died 15 August 1825 . The Hultons lived at **Barnfield**. This house was on the western side of Weston Lane built around 1800 in Gothic style. Came into the possession of the Hultons around 1821. Early 20<sup>th</sup> century building divided into flats and in 1948 the rest of Barnfield was split up. In the time of Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee (1897) Mrs Hulton invited to Barnfield all the women from Woolston. The band of TS Mercury played and each guest received a pretty book, Queen Victoria And Her People'.

Nearby is a squint here to the altar.

Coming round in front of the pews are stones set into the floor. One to Mylles dated 1690 and in front of that an 18<sup>th</sup> century one to George Mylles. To the right as you look at the altar are other

tombstones brought in from the churchyard and some show evidence of having been cut to fit so that part of the inscription has been lopped off. Buried somewhere under the floor are understood to be the Butler Harrisons, Mrs BH being a distant cousin of JA and JA came to Southampton in 1793 to be godmother to the daughter. Butler Harrisons lived at St Mary Street opposite St Mary's Church. When Butler Harrison died in 1843 the burial ground for St Mary's was still open but in a disgusting state. Wonder if Peartree Chapel was chosen as the burial place to avoid all the nastiness at St Marys.

On the wall at this point is a brass to Thomas Lewis Owen Davies MA Exeter College Oxford born 14 January 1833, Deacon 1857 Priest 1860 Vicar of Parish 1860 – 1917 At rest 2 March 1918. Token of appreciation by parishioners and friends. (Link to the tomb in the churchyard). There is a story that Rev T L O Davies is thought to have given away lands owned by the church possibly including the site of St Marys Stadium.

Assuming it has not since been replaced and is in Caen stone, the reredos was given to church on 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of T L O Davies becoming Vicar. In the 1939/45 war, only the east window glass survived which shows the crucifixion and resurrection.

The Organ is a Gray and Davison refurbished about 10 years ago at a cost of £150,000 most of which came from the Lottery with reserves and fund raising providing the rest.

Coming on round to the south side reach the **War Memorial** in wood. Headed For King and Country with then part of the words of St John's Gospel: Greater Love Hath No man. At the foot are the words The Heroic Dead. In a case in front of the memorial is a glass case with a medallion showing an hour glass with wings Time Flies. There are unusually more Second World War names than First War, the SWW being at the bottom under the wood tablet. These names may include those who died when the Spitfire Works was bombed. At the foot of the wooden tablet are two names from WW2. A J Flux and A Payne. Arthur Flux was married to Winnie (who died a couple of years ago) Winnie remembered that when they were married all the windows in the church were covered with brown paper because of the bombing. After Arthur's death Winnie married Mr Bennett and always had his photo and that of Arthur on the wall. Arthur resembled Harold Lloyd. Arthur was killed on the beach landings at Salerno also commemorated at Romsey Abbey as the regiment came from there.

The World War II memorial was dedicated and unveiled 7 November 1948 in the incumbency of Rev Sydney Turner DSO OBE.

1914/18

A Barnes, H Bamford, A H Bell, S C E Brehaut, W Broadribb, N W Brown, W Browning, J S Budden, S H L Buxton, G P Cockburn, E Cummings, A Dorkin, A Ford, C E French, T Gifford, A Guy, F Hartridge, W J Hinton, A E Hiscock, P Holloway, R Horton, I Ings, A E Jpoling, C Lilley, J Mackay, W Merritt, W Mosedale, P P Perrin, C M Pook, L K Pope, W Ray, F Redell, W rider, R Roberts, J H Shea, T Smith, R H Spake, C A Thompson, W C Wake, W H West, W A Yearsley, A G Young (42)

1939.45

Walter George Avesso, Dennis Darcy Batchelor, N S Bell Boulter, David Frederick Positton (N) Albert Edward Byfield Robert Samuel Cadwallader, Harry Castleman , William George Cleater , George Roy Cope , Walter T Cousins , Arthur Curman , Albert Edward Cook , Victor James Cutler, Bertie R Dagnell, Hendry Edmondson, Leslie E Eastman, Ronald R Elms, Sidney James Gardner, John F Gregory, Edward James Gunn, William Douglas Hartley, Patrick Dennis Healey, Charles Harper, Edward Horatio Holmes, J H Bishop WRNS, L Butt RN, H Clarke, W A J Smith, Stanley Edward Sparks, Medley Slatter,, William Higginson, Joseph John Jackman, Ernest A King, Frederick Long, Joseph Loth, E Lillicrop, Leslie James Martin, Robert Albert Alford, McKean, Phyllis Olga Morris nee Thompson, Reginald Mould, George H O'Neill, Edward A Newman, Reginald Nott, Arthur Hills Nicholls, Harry Ockleford, John parker, John Pearse, E Pengelly, H G Prewitt, Alfred Price, Charles H ray, Albert Edward Redhead, Raymond Clifford Renouf, Ernest George Rickman, William Rollett, John Sturgess, Cyril john Swaman, John Thomas Thorn, John Foprdr Thirlbeck, Norman David Thompson, Thomas James Taylor, Bert Wake, Raymond Arthur Wakefield, Ronald Whitehorn, Thomas Stanley Whitlock, E Wright, Arthur R Wyatt, William J Wheeler (70).

Leading Wren, Phyllis Olga Morris, is buried at Columbo, Sri Lanka. Pte Thomas Stephen Whitlock of the 1 Bn Hampshire Regt died 9 February 1941 and rests at Keren War Cemetery, Eritrea. Keren was the Italian stronghold in East Africa and was well defended. The only access road passed through a deep gorge. The Italians had 23000 riflemen and guns and mortars. Able Seaman Raymond Arthur James Wakefield died 12 November 1945 HMS Vernon and rests not far away in the churchyard of Holy Saviour at Bitterne. Arthur James Flux died on the beaches at Salerno on 26 September 1943