

NORTHFIELD
Revealed

Churchyard Symbols

The Churchyard at St Laurence is a very special place. It contains a variety of gravestones and memorial stones. Humans have always marked the burial of their ancestors with respect and dignity. For example, the pyramids of Ancient Egypt were the burial grounds of important Pharaohs.

Christian burials have been taking place at St Laurence's Church for hundreds of years. Burials still take place here today.

In a cemetery or burial ground you are surrounded by words and symbols that represent feeling and belief. Christian symbols that you might see include a cross (a reminder of the death of Jesus on the cross); grapes (a symbol Christian faith: Jesus said "I am the true vine"); angels (a symbol of heaven). Love, friendship, memory, sadness, beauty and youth are all represented by symbols in the cemeteries. They are inspired by the beauty of nature and were particularly fashionable in Victorian times. Identify the symbol on these gravestones.

Rose - eternal love

Primrose - youth, hope, sadness

Morning Glory - shortness of life

Daffodil - death of youth and beauty

Lily - purity

Ivy - faithfulness and friendship

A garland - victory over death

Pansy - remembrance and humility

Tree stump - life cut short

Oak leaves or branches - stability strength

Task: Design your own symbol. Consider the size and shape of the stone and the meaning behind your image. You might like to combine lettering or numbers in your design. Choose from the variety of different colours found naturally in stone; black or red granite, white or pink marble, honey or red sandstone.

