



Churchyard briefing notes
South & South East in Bloom
2021

West Farleigh in Bloom - Churchyard



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Map of Churchyard in relation to the Village

Foreword & Welcome to our Judge



We would like to extend a warm welcome to our judge, Nick Hagon. This is our third year of entering the Churchyard category of South and South East in Bloom. Last year All Saints church, West Farleigh received a Silver Gilt Certificate and a Silver the year prior.

The Grade 1 listed consecrated Church of England building dates from the 11th century with additions carried out in the 15th century. It was restored in 1875 and then had substantial stone work refurbishment in 2018 too. It is made of uncoursed ragstone and a pebbledash render with tiled roof.

In recent years we have added a car park and edged it with a Yew hedge.



Where they lived

We are working on a booklet to give some history of the people buried in All Saints Churchyard of where they lived and worked when they were alive.

We are researching people, taking Obituaries from past copies of LifeLine and also put out an appeal in the monthly newsletter LifeLine.

Appeal from the Bloom team



"The West Farleigh in Bloom" team are trying to create a history of the people buried in All Saints Churchyard for heritage preservation. Some of those villagers you may remember or may have lived in your houses in years gone by. If you would like to share any memories / information or research your property's prior residents please let the Bloom@TheFarleighs.co.uk know. Thank-you



Entrances and Noticeboards

The All Saints church noticeboard is situated at the main entrance to the churchyard, just through the iron gates. It shows a map of the churchyard and where the Grade 2 listed graves are to be found as well as a history for visitors to read.

We have underplanted the noticeboard in a theme of white flowers including Hydrangea Annabel and Arum Lillies.



Photos of our year:





B2: Horticultural practice

In previous years all the grass in the churchyard was kept short all over to make it look neat and allow for ease of access. However it was pointed out to us during Judging 2019 that this is not helping the wildlife and wildflowers and hence we have kept longer grass areas with paths mown through them. This was started in 2020 but has really made an impact in 2021.



B2: War Graves

Our Judges in 2019 suggested that we scatter the War Grave in the Churchyard with Red Poppies in Remembrance of their life, service and death of those entombed there. The Bloomers really liked this idea and proposed to the Little Angels Toddler play group if they could help us scatter the seeds. They managed to do this in February 2020, just before lockdown.

In 2021 many more poppies have self seeded in the war grave and the display looks very striking. We are very pleased with the suggestion.



Wild flowers

We have been planting more wildflowers around the church:



Prince Alexander Croy, Primrose Croy & Marie Winch

All Saints Church were the grateful recipients of a legacy from Ethel Evelyn Primrose Croy:

Primrose Croy held All Saints Church close, as her mother committed suicide in 1939 and although it was not the custom at the time, Marie Elspeth Agnes Makgill was given special permission to be buried in the church grounds in an unmarked grave.

Primrose lived mostly in London and worked for the foreign office. In 1978 she married Prince Alexander Croy, an Austrian Catholic Prince. He converted to Anglicanism so that he could be buried next to her in the churchyard.

Her family live now in Tasmania and had been trying to continue Primrose's wish for a simple name plaque for her mother. With the help of the Parochial Church Council at All Saints, this has now been achieved.

An in depth article was written on Primrose and her life in LifeLine and on our village website.



Bug Hotel, Recycling & Water & Infrastructure

In 2020 we created a Bug Hotel and today it is looking solid and well used. We added a compost bin too. The walls and gate are well maintained.



A3: Infrastructure

Night Time Illuminations – The church has a light above the main entrance arch and also various up lighters in the churchyard itself. They automatically come on at dusk each evening and turn off at 11pm.





Thank-you for visiting us in
West Farleigh, Kent!

[http://www.thefarleighs.co.uk/
all saints church.html](http://www.thefarleighs.co.uk/all_saints_church.html)

Facebook – ‘The Farleighs Kent’

[https://unitedbenefice.church/west
farleigh/all-saints-church-west-
farleigh/](https://unitedbenefice.church/westfarleigh/all-saints-church-westfarleigh/)

* We participate in Kent ‘Ride and Stride’ each September where you can cycle or walk to as many churches as possible to raise funds.

Appendix: Map & detail of Listed Graves

We have added a map of the Churchyard to the noticeboard to show visitors the listed graves. The information below is shared there and we have used our monthly publication, Lifeline, to inform more parishioners about these graves and the history of the people buried there.



There are 5 Grade 2 listed headstones in the churchyard of All Saints, including monuments to:

- John Siles Charlton d.1815 – stone, double stepped base, moulded plinth, corniced lid.
- Augustine Hodges C17 – stone, moulded plinth, corniced lid, latin inscription.
- Susan Olive d.1826 – rectangular base, formerly railed, double-quirked bead edging.
- Amy Charlton d.1789 – bulbous side pilasters, fielded inscription panel with convex corners.
- John Gibbons d.1800 – oval finial on slightly raised circular base.



Map of the church in relation to West Farleigh village

