



View of Whitechurch graveyard looking east



View of the Phelps and Burnet mausolea.



View of church and railings



Jellet ledger stone KK-WTCH-0083

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Reilig an Teampall Geal

Whitechurch

Graveyard, Co. Kilkenny



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Whitechurch | Reilig an Teampall Geal

Whitechurch and graveyard are located in the townland and parish of Whitechurch and barony of Iverk in Co Kilkenny. The church was built by Michael Cox, Archbishop of Cashel, who built the nearby Castletown Cox reputed to be one of the premier exemplars of the Palladian tradition in Ireland. The house is associated with the Cox, Villiers Stuart, Wyndham-Quin, Blacque, de Breffny and Magan families. According to the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) Whitechurch is An elegantly-appointed modest-scale rural parish church built by Michael Cox (b. pre-1729), Archbishop of Cashel possibly to designs prepared by David Ducart (Daviso de Arcort or Daviso d'Arcort) (fl. 1767-71) following the provision of a grant by the Board of First Fruits (fl. c.1711-1833). Forming a picturesque landmark in the locality the setting value of the church is enhanced by an attendant graveyard containing markers displaying expert craftsmanship while an elegant gateway makes a pleasing impression in the street scene. Detached three-bay double-height single-cell Classical-style Board of First Fruits Church of Ireland church, built 1766, with single-bay single-storey vestry to north, and single-bay three-stage entrance tower to west on a square plan having spire. Renovated, 1820, possibly with tower added. Graveyard to site with various cut-stone markers, post-1766-post-1903.

Five components of the site are protected by the National Monuments Acts (1930-2004). These include the church KK038-002002 and the graveyard KK038-002002. Three components of the site have been assigned protection by the NIAH. These comprise the church (12403806), the Phelps mausoleum (12403814) and the Burnet mausoleum (12403819).

A total of 87 memorials were recorded in the graveyard and four murals in the church by Eachtra Archaeological Projects Ltd. A further five wall murals (KK-WTCH-0092-96), which were removed from Whitechurch to Pilltown church after Whitechurch was closed, have been included in this survey. There is a very interesting mixture of headstones, simple and ornate, crosses, recumbent ledgers, two box tombs and two mausoleums in the graveyard.

The full results of the survey are available on www.historicgraves.com/graveyard/whitechurch/kk-wtch


Survey & Design by historicgraves.com

Some Examples | Cuid de na Leachtaí

12 HEADSTONE James Roalch - 1759

There are many interesting instances of different spelling of names in the graveyard. For example Roche is spelt Roalch on KK-WTCH-0013 dating to 1759 and Roache on WTCH-0014 dating to 1790 and -0015 dating to 1782.


Reference: KK-WTCH-0012
GPS: 52°22'27.0"N, 7°22'39.2"W



29 HEADSTONE James Commins - 1747

Some of the inscriptions of the memorials contain a lot of genealogical detail. E.g; James Commins of Baling & his wife Jan Commins als Burk & also ye body of Joan Commins als Larkin wife to Joseph Commins of Piltown who dyed June ye 14 1747.


Reference: KK-WTCH-0029
GPS: 52°22'27.0"N, 7°22'38.8"W



33 HEADSTONE Patrick Mcgrath - 1772

Patrick Magrath of Tybroughny. The modern spelling of townland is Tibberaghny which means Tiobra Fhachna/St. Fhachna well. The stone is decorated with symbols of the crucifixion, including the cross, a cockerel, pieces of silver, a ladder, nails and a hammer.


Reference: KK-WTCH-0033
GPS: 52°22'27.3"N, 7°22'38.9"W



37 HEADSTONE Thomas Purcell - 1772

Some memorial stones include interesting occupational details relating in this case to the person who erected the stone. This headstone was erected by John Purcell of the city of Waterford, Master Builder in memory of his father, mother, and son.


Reference: KK-WTCH-0037
GPS: 53° 16' 52.6" N, 9° 02' 15.1" W



42 HEADSTONE Philip Fogerty - 1724

This is the oldest and one of the smallest headstones in the graveyard. Philip Fogerty parted his life in 1724 aged 54. Well carved symbols of the crucifixion, including three dice and a spear leaning against the cross, decorate the upper section of the stone.


Reference: KK-WTCH-0042
GPS: 52°22'27.3"N, 7°22'38.6"W



47 HEADSTONE Frances Dawson - 1860

This headstone marks the location of a vault in which are interred Frances relict of John Dawson died in 1860 aged 80 & the Revd. Charles Harte who is also commemorated on a wall mural in the church (KK-WTCH-0090) and his wife Frances.


Reference: KK-WTCH-0047
GPS: 52°22'27.3"N, 7°22'38.3"W



50 HEADSTONE Margaret Neal - 1753

This small headstone commemorates Margaret Neal who died at the age of 14 in 1753. A brother and two sisters are included in the inscription but are not named or aged.


Reference: KK-WTCH-0050
GPS: 52°22'27.0"N, 7°22'38.2"W



54 HEADSTONE James Furlong - 176?

This stone marks the burial place of Mr James Furlong of Carrickbeg 3 of his children are interred her 176?. The majority of the 18th century stones are located to the south of the church but the Furlong stone is located to the east (rear).


Reference: KK-WTCH-0054
GPS: 52°22'27.2"N, 7°22'38.2"W



64 MONUMENT Georgiana Phelps - 1856

This mausoleum in the Gothic Revival style was erected in 1857 to commemorate Georgiana Phelps, wife of John Lecky Phelps and daughter of Maj Robert Hedges Maunsell. She was married in September 1856 and died in Rome in November the same year.


Reference: KK-WTCH-0064
GPS: 52°22'27.4"N, 7°22'38.1"W



66 LEDGER Henry Blackmore - 1818

This box tomb commemorates Henry Blackmore Esq who departed this life at the Glebe House on the 22 day of July 1818 in the 50th year of his age. Glebe House was the residence of the Vicar of Whitechurch.


Reference: KK-WTCH-0066
GPS: 52°22'27.5"N, 7°22'38.0"W



70 HEADSTONE John Rafter - 1877

This stone was erected by Mrs Helena Burnet to commemorate a faithful servant John Rafter who died at 26 Merrion Square North in 1877 aged 70 years. The same Mrs Burnet erected the mausoleum KK-WTCH-0071.


Reference: KK-WTCH-0070
GPS: 52°22'27.5"N, 7°22'37.5"W



71 MONUMENT John Burnet - 1861

This mausoleum in Classical style stands in contrast to the Phelps mausoleum. It was erected by Mrs Helena Burnet to the memory of her husband John Burnet of Cookestown Esq late 52 Reg who died in 1861 aged 68 years.


Reference: KK-WTCH-0071
GPS: 52°22'27.4"N, 7°22'37.7"W



82 HEADSTONE Richard Maunsell Kellett - 1939

Some of the memorial stones commemorate members of the clergy. Richard Maunsell Kellett MA for 31 years rector of the united parishes of Fiddown Castlane and Clonmore and Precentor of St Canice's Cathedral Kilkenny died 1939 aged 69.


Reference: KK-WTCH-0082
GPS: 52°22'27.4"N, 7°22'39.8"W



89 PLAQUE Thomas Maunsell - 1843

A marble wall mural in the church commemorates Rev Thomas Maunsell MA who departed this life the 25th day of November 1840 in the 69th year of his age and 46th of his ministry upwards of 10 he was the Rector of this parish.


Reference: KK-WTCH-0089
GPS: 52°22'27.2"N, 7°22'38.9"W



94 PLAQUE Henry John Villiers Stuart - 1914

Henry J. Villiers Stuart and his wife Jane Rigby are commemorated on a cross (86) and on a wall mural now resident in Pilltown church. Henry held a commission in HM 68th Light Infantry 1855-1870 serving... in the Crimea Ionian Islands Burma and New Zealand.

Reference: KK-WTCH-0094
GPS: 52°22'27.2"N, 7°22'38.9"W



Reilig an Teampall Geal

Whitechurch Graveyard

