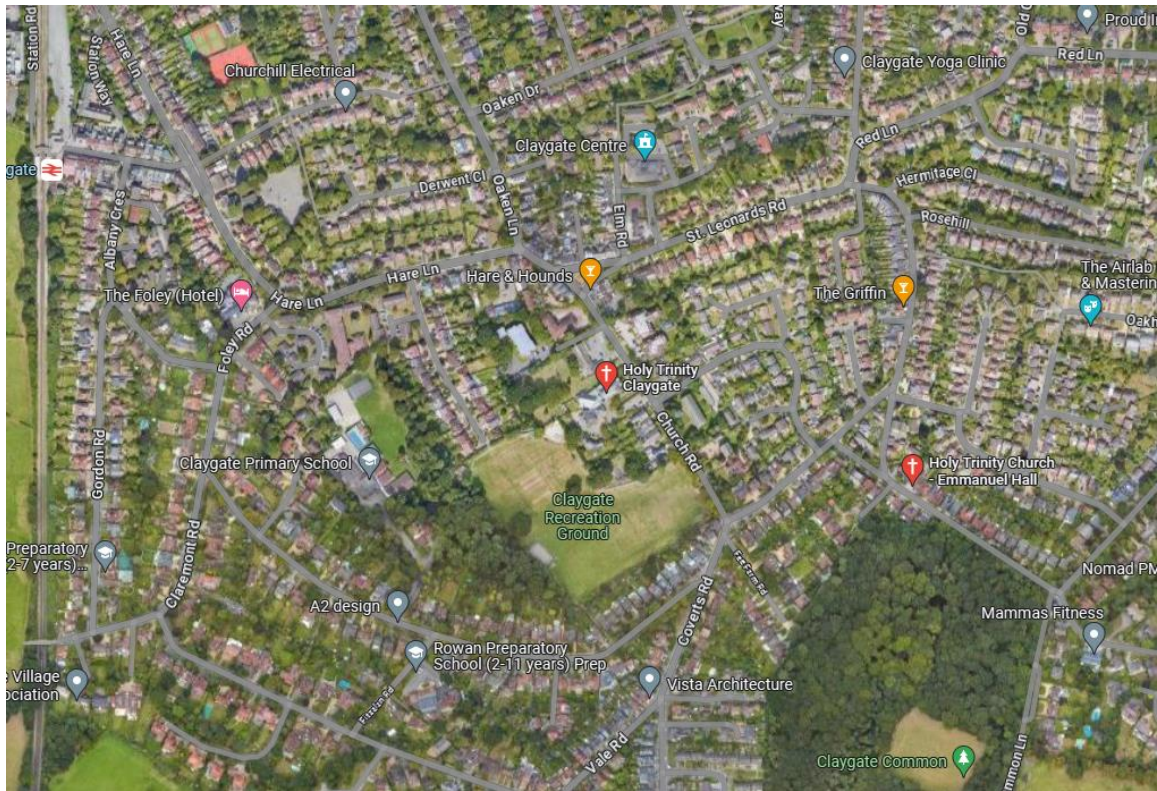




# HOLY TRINITY CHURCHYARD

## A BRIEF HISTORY

## INTRODUCTION



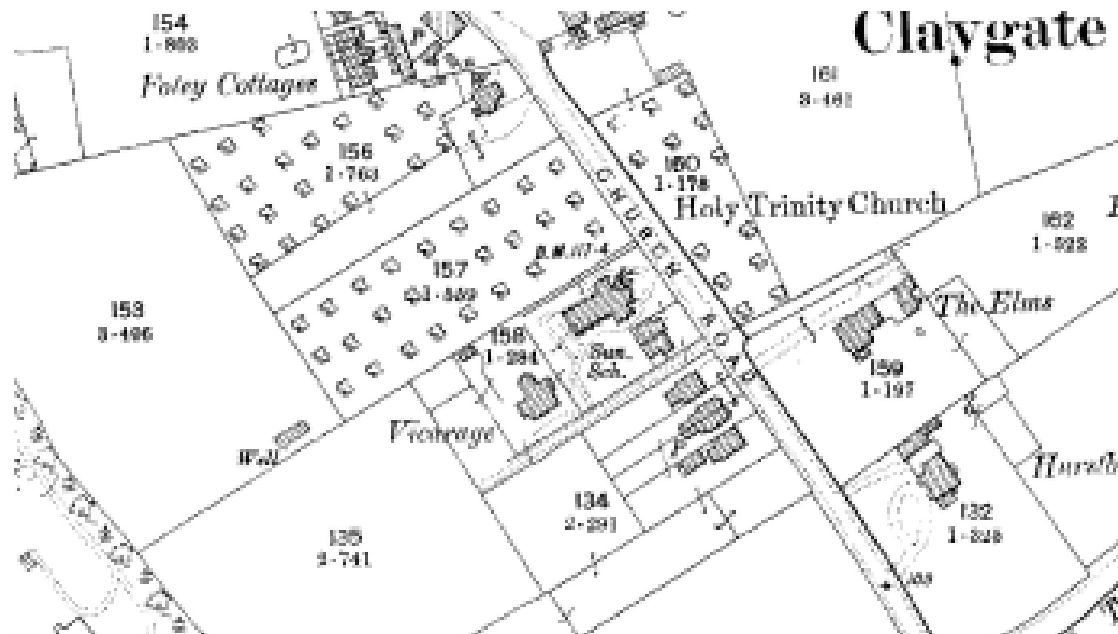
Holy Trinity Church and its surrounding churchyard are located at the heart of Claygate village, situated at the northern edge of Surrey.

The purpose of this document is to outline the history and evolution of the churchyard from the church being built in 1840, up to the present day.

The churchyard is currently very nearly full, with only a couple of plots remaining for new burials, so only second burials in family graves will be possible in future. The church will continue to provide funeral and thanksgiving services, but burials will take place in local council cemeteries. The Garden of Remembrance in the centre of the churchyard has sufficient space left, so interment of ashes will continue for the foreseeable future.

The fact that the churchyard is almost full was one of the reasons for consideration of opening the churchyard to wider access by the Claygate community, which evolved into the Way Maker Project.

## EARLY YEARS



Claygate was originally part of Thames Ditton parish, situated to the north of Claygate. Residents used to walk to Thames Ditton along (Old) Claygate Lane over Telegraph Hill.

Holy Trinity Church was built in 1840.

This map, published in 1896, shows the original shape of the church, the Vicarage (now the Ministry Centre) and the Schoolroom located in what is now the car park. The Sunday School building later became the church hall and was demolished in 1999 as part of the Church Building Project.

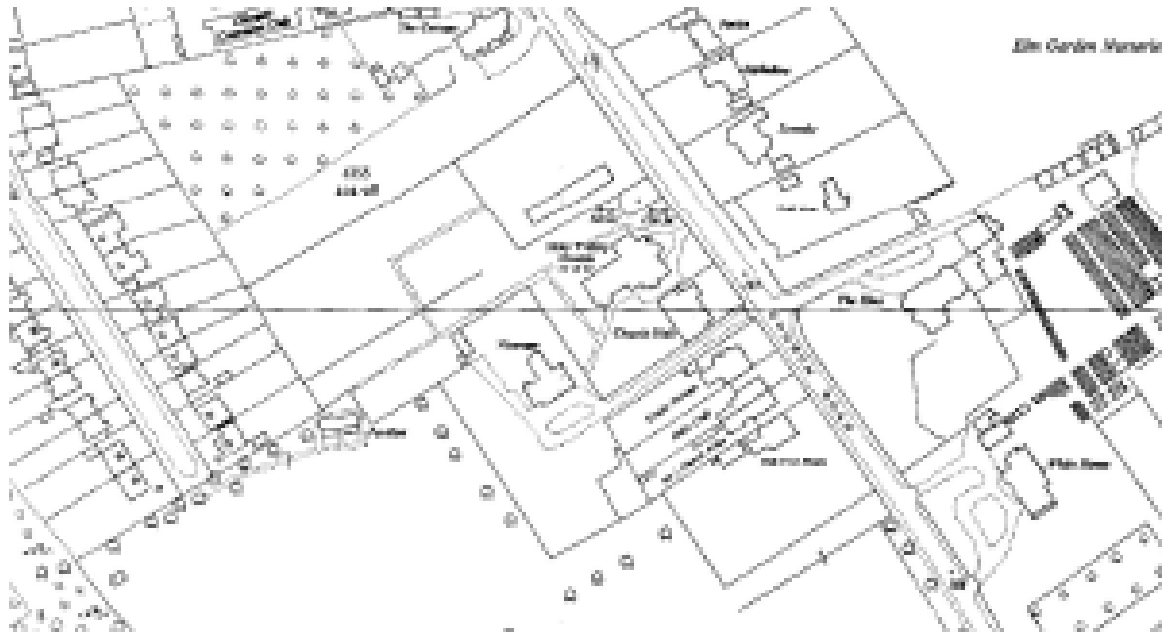
The original churchyard was located round the church, with the border running where the current path on the North side is located.

This original churchyard became full and was 'Closed in Council' in 1904.

The area to the north-west of the church building, that now represents most of the churchyard and the Village Hall, was originally an orchard owned by 'The Misses Cox'.

The schoolroom was the first school in Claygate until the council took over and laid the foundation stone in Elm Road in 1885.

## CHURCHYARD DEVELOPMENT



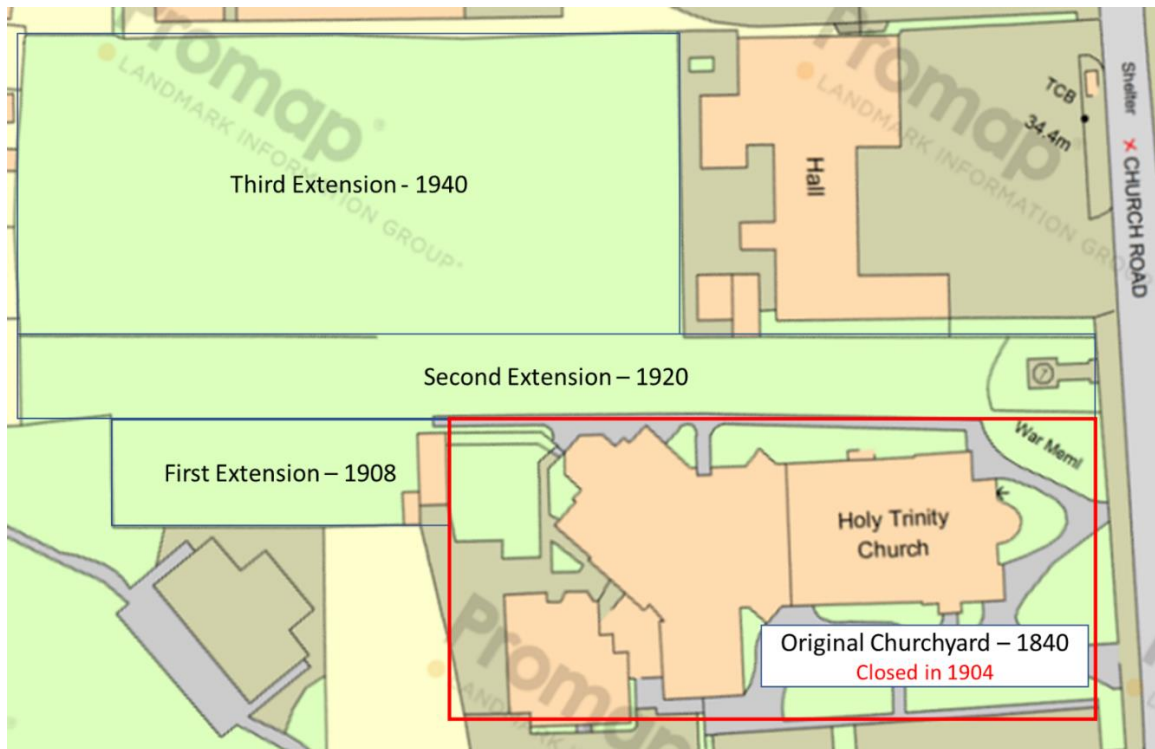
The churchyard was extended in three stages - 1908, 1920 and 1940.

This map, from 1956, shows the full extent of the churchyard as it currently is with the original church, church hall and vicarage.

The area currently occupied by the Village Hall was kept separate, though the building itself was not started until 1954.

The War Memorial was unveiled in 1921, in honour of the dead in First World War. The memorial for those who died in the Second World War is located inside the church, on the wall behind the pulpit.

## CHURCHYARD EXTENSIONS



This plan shows the current layout of the church and how the churchyard was extended over time from its original boundary (shown in red)

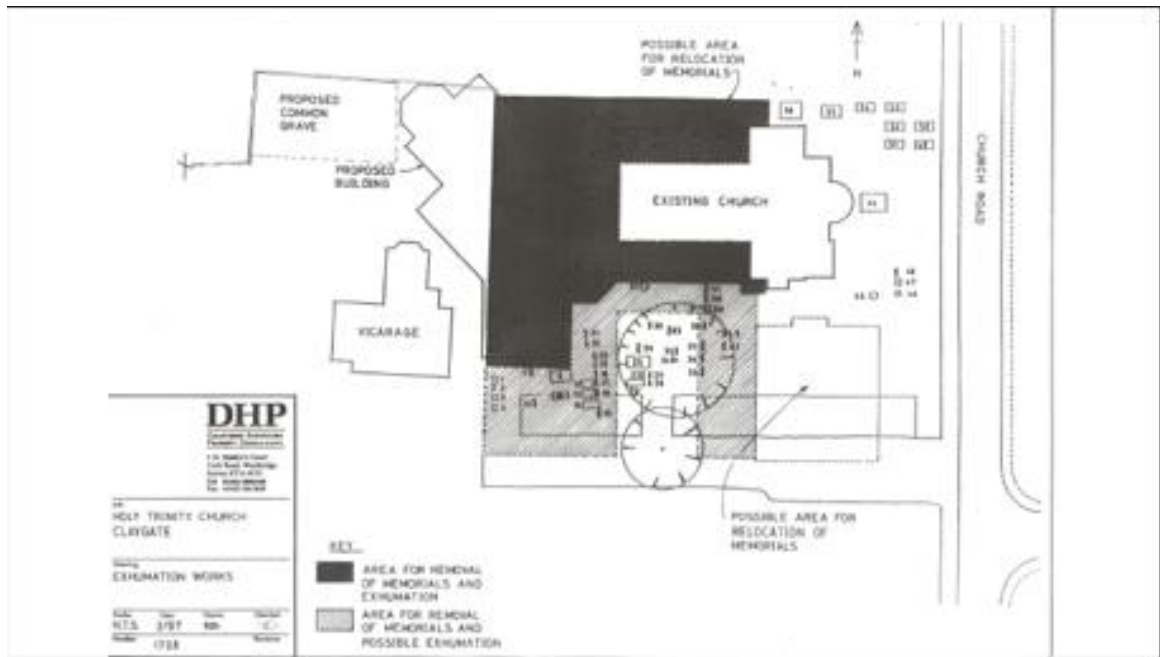
The first extension (1908) is the small area that backs onto the recreation ground. The graves in this area date from 1908 to the late 1920s, though some family graves have later dates (with the most recent being 1977).

The second extension (1920) is a long strip from the War Memorial beside the Village Hall and up to the border with the last house in Dalmore Avenue. Graves here date from the 1920s to the 1940s, again with some more recent additions.

The final extension (1940) is bounded by the Village Hall, Arbrook Hall and the houses in Dalmore Avenue. The oldest graves (1940s) are at the Village Hall end, with more recent graves being along the border with the Dalmore Avenue gardens.

The churchyard contains a small number of graves that were installed by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

## CHURCH BUILDING PROJECT



This plan shows the relocation of graves around the church as part of the church building project in the late 1990s.

The picture is quite complex but does illustrate what was done.

The two areas marked as 'possible area for relocation of memorials', mean that the area to the north of the church and the area where the old church hall was, do not contain graves, just memorials.

The area marked in black and the hatched had all remains removed and re-buried in the area marked 'Proposed common grave'. The monuments were moved to the designated relocation areas.

In the area left unshaded original graves and memorials were left untouched. This covers the area to the east of the church and the area around the tree to the south of the church.

## TOPOGRAPHICAL SURVEY



In 2023, a full topographical survey of the churchyard was carried out by AG International. The plan above is the result of this survey. It shows the location of all headstones, grave slabs and kerbstones in the churchyard as well as other topographical features.

The survey was unable to show the location of unmarked graves. These would need to be added manually, but it should be noted that most of the apparently empty space does contain graves but no headstones, grave slabs or kerbstones.

AG International are currently undertaking a nationwide project to survey every Church of England churchyard. This project has not yet reached Guildford Diocese so Holy Trinity Claygate paid for a direct contract with the company to carry out the survey, but without linking all the graves to individuals and their burial records.

The survey was used as the background to the churchyard designs developed by Selina Botham of Designs for all Seasons.