

## Recording Notes

### History of the Records

Members of the "Friends of Beckley Parish Church" recorded inscriptions shown in this booklet during the period 1993-1994. The object of the exercise was to preserve the wording and details on the older monuments, which had by then been badly affected by weather and time.

### Method of Working

Unfortunately the team was too late for some of the older and more fragile monuments but they have faithfully recorded the inscriptions as they were found then. Each monument was allocated a "plot", as shown on the attached plan of the churchyard and, within each plot the known graves were recorded by a number starting from the path edges. Full details were recorded, as seen, and the shape and size of the monument also recorded on separate sheets, and from these the index has been prepared. The records are retained in binders and kept by the Beckley History Society. *Inspection can be made by arrangement.*

Visitors will note when walking around the churchyard that it was not possible, with any degree of accuracy, to position the individual monuments as there are numerous unmarked graves, leaving continuous gaps between standing headstones. Many graves and monuments were found to be without maintenance and some had been damaged, or had fallen over. There were also iron crosses and small vases of various kinds scattered here and there. Wherever possible the team replaced these small items, thought to have been earlier grave markers and recorded whatever detail was available. In some instances there were only footstones with initials and dates. Researchers will be aware that even the slightest clue may help to verify a grave once details from burial records are known.

### Plot Identification

The plots start at the eastern end of the churchyard, Plot A being on the right of the path leading from the Lych gate entrance. The next is Plot B, which surrounds the War memorial and then, in two large plots either side, up to the Lych Gate, which, will also be noted, is a "war memorial". The plots then carry on around the church in alphabetical sequence, along the south, the west and the north sides, joining up with Plot A. The numbering takes place from the path nearest to each plot. The locations within the church are from the south porch in a clockwise order.

### The Team of Volunteers

Nese and Bill Bullocke, Eric Edwards, Malcolm Curtis, Jane Shattock, Olivia and Dennis Ward, and Margaret Wythe, were the volunteers, and many thanks must go to this team who spent many hours recording, during summer and spring time of 1993 and 1994. Monuments from then on are clearly located in or near to Plots N and P, and more recently burials have been taking place within the Glebe Field, the direction of which is noted on the plan.

This index has been prepared by Dennis Ward for and on behalf of the Beckley History Society, and it is requested that, after use, it is replaced in the holder at the side of the book case containing the "Roll of Honour", which is located on the north wall of the Church, opposite the south porch entrance.

For further information please visit Beckley History Society pages on the Village web site at [www.beckley-uk.com](http://www.beckley-uk.com) (use minus sign after Beckley) **Please do enjoy your visit.**