

**St. Mary the Virgin Churchyard,
Harefield, Middlesex, England
War Graves**



Lest We Forget

World War 1



323 PRIVATE

C. R. ROWLANDS

AUST. ARMY MEDICAL CORPS

20TH JULY, 1916 Age 26

In Memory

Of Our Dear Son & Brother

May His Soul Rest In Peace

Cecil Rupert ROWLANDS

Cecil Rupert Rowlands was born on 27th February, 1890 at Currawang, New South Wales to parents John Richard and Emily D. Rowlands (nee Doherty).

Emily Rowlands, mother of Cecil Rupert Rowlands, died on 1st June, 1895 at Currawang, NSW.

Cecil Rupert Rowlands attended Public School at Currawang, NSW.

John Richard Rowlands remarried on 9th February, 1898 at St. Saviours Cathedral, Goulburn, NSW to Anne Hamilton.

The 1913 Australian Electoral Roll for the division of Goulburn, subdivision of Kenmore, NSW listed Cecil Rupert Rowlands, Attendant, from Kenmore.

Cecil Rupert Rowlands was a 24 year old, single, Hospital Attendant (as per Embarkation Roll, however on his Attestation Papers he listed he was a Farmer) from Currawang, via Goulburn, NSW when he enlisted in Sydney, NSW on 2nd September, 1914 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 323 & his religion was Protestant (as per Embarkation Roll, however his Religion was listed as Roman Catholic on Attestation Papers). His next of kin was listed as R. Rowlands, Currawang, via Goulburn, NSW.

Private Cecil Rupert Rowlands was posted to A.M.C. (Army Medical Corps) Details, 1st Field Artillery Brigade on 1st September, 1914 for recruit training.

Private Cecil Robert (name as per Embarkation Roll) Rowlands embarked from Sydney, NSW on HMAT *Argyllshire* (A8) on 18th October, 1914 with the 1st Field Artillery Brigade – Headquarters – Attached A.M.C. Details. He arrived at Alexandria in December, 1914.

Private Cecil Rupert Rowlands joined M.E.F. (Mediterranean Expeditionary Force) on 4th April, 1915. His Brigade was positioned at Cape Helles from 4th May, 1915.

Private Cecil Rupert Rowlands reported sick at Gallipoli on 16th August, 1915. He was admitted to St. Paul's Hospital, Malta on 27th September, 1915 with Dysentery. Private Rowlands was transferred to Convalescent Camp at Ghain Tuffieha at Malta on 9th October, 1915. He embarked from Malta on 29th October, 1915 on Hospital Ship *Italia* for England.

Private Cecil Rupert Rowlands was admitted to 3rd London General Hospital, Wandsworth, London, England from 10th November, 1915. He was discharged on 17th November, 1915.

Mr R. Rowlands, father of Private Cecil Rupert Rowlands, was advised by Base Records on 23rd November, 1915 that Private Rowlands was in Hospital in England suffering from Dysentery.

Private Cecil Rupert Rowlands was admitted to 1st Australian Auxiliary Hospital, England on 13th April, 1916 with Dysentery & Jaundice. The Hospital Admissions form recorded that he was awaiting a Hospital Ship.

A Medical Report was completed on Private Cecil Rupert Rowlands on 14th April, 1916 at Harefield Park, England. His disability was listed as Cirrhosis of Liver & Dysentery which was stated to have originated on 1st September, 1915 at Gallipoli. *"Invalided with Dysentery to Malta for 2 months then to Wandsworth for three weeks. Went to Epsom developed jaundice at Xmas & returned to Wandsworth."* His disability was the result of climate & exposure while on Active Service. The Board recommended that Private Rowlands be discharge as permanently unfit for any military service.

Mr R. Rowlands, of Currawang, NSW, father of Private Cecil Rupert Rowlands, was advised by Base Records on 9th May, 1916 that Private Rowlands was dangerously ill with Dysentery and Ascites. Mr R. Rowlands wrote to Base Records on 12th May, 1916 stating he had received a wire regarding his son being dangerously ill & requested more information and he was *"most anxious about my lad. If you cannot tell me will you please tell me whom I apply to for more definite news."* Base Records replied on 20th May, 1916 that *"periodical returns are furnished by the High Commissioner for Australia, London, respecting the progress and condition of members of the Australian Imperial*

Force, who are in Hospital in England, and upon receipt of any later information concerning your son, you will be promptly notified. Your change of address has been noted."

Mr R. Rowlands, of Currawang, NSW, father of Private Cecil Rupert Rowlands, was advised by Base Records on 18th May, 1916 that Private Rowlands was still dangerously ill.

Mr R. Rowlands, of Post Office Willaroo, NSW, father of Private Cecil Rupert Rowlands, was advised by Base Records on 19th June, 1916 that Private Rowlands was progressing favourably.

Mr R. Rowlands, of Post Office Willaroo, NSW, father of Private Cecil Rupert Rowlands, was advised by Base Records on 13th July, 1916 that Private Rowlands was "*getting worse.*"

[Note: Not all the Hospitals or dates of admission have been recorded in the Service Record file for Private Cecil Rupert Rowlands. Those recorded have been included in this research.]

Private Cecil Rupert Rowlands died on 20th July, 1916 at No. 1 Australian Auxiliary Hospital, Harefield, Middlesex, England from (primary) Jaundice & Ascites & (secondly) Exhaustion.

A death for Cecil R. Rowlands, aged 26, was registered in the September quarter, 1916 in the district of Uxbridge, Middlesex, England.

Private Cecil Rupert Rowlands was buried in St. Mary the Virgin Churchyard, Harefield, Middlesex, England – Plot number Aust. 5 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

Mr R. Rowlands, Of Post Office Willaroo, NSW, father of Private Cecil Rupert Rowlands, was advised by Base Records on 22nd July, 1916 that Private Rowlands was dangerously ill with Jaundice & Ascites.

Private Cecil R. Rowlands requested in his Will dated 16th July, 1916 that the whole of his property & effects be given to his sister – Ada Rowlands. At the time of making his Will he would have been unable to sign his name so made the mark of a "X". Two witness were recorded – W. T. Hayward, L. Co. & A. C. McGregor, Sister, Harefield.

Inspector General of the Insane – Eric Sinclair, Richmond Terrace, Domain, Sydney, wrote to Base Records on 30th January, 1918, requesting a death certificate for No. 323 Rowland, Cecil Rupert, 1st Field Ambulance, A.I.F., whom he stated was an employee of the Department.

Private Cecil Rupert Rowlands was entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Private Rowlands' father - Mr R. Rowlands, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent June, 1921 & Plaque sent August, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Gunner Cecil Rupert Rowlands – service number 323, aged 24, of 1st Bde., Australian Field Artillery. He was the son of Richard and Emily D. Rowlands, of Currawang, Goulburn, New South Wales.

Private C. R. Rowlands is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 11.

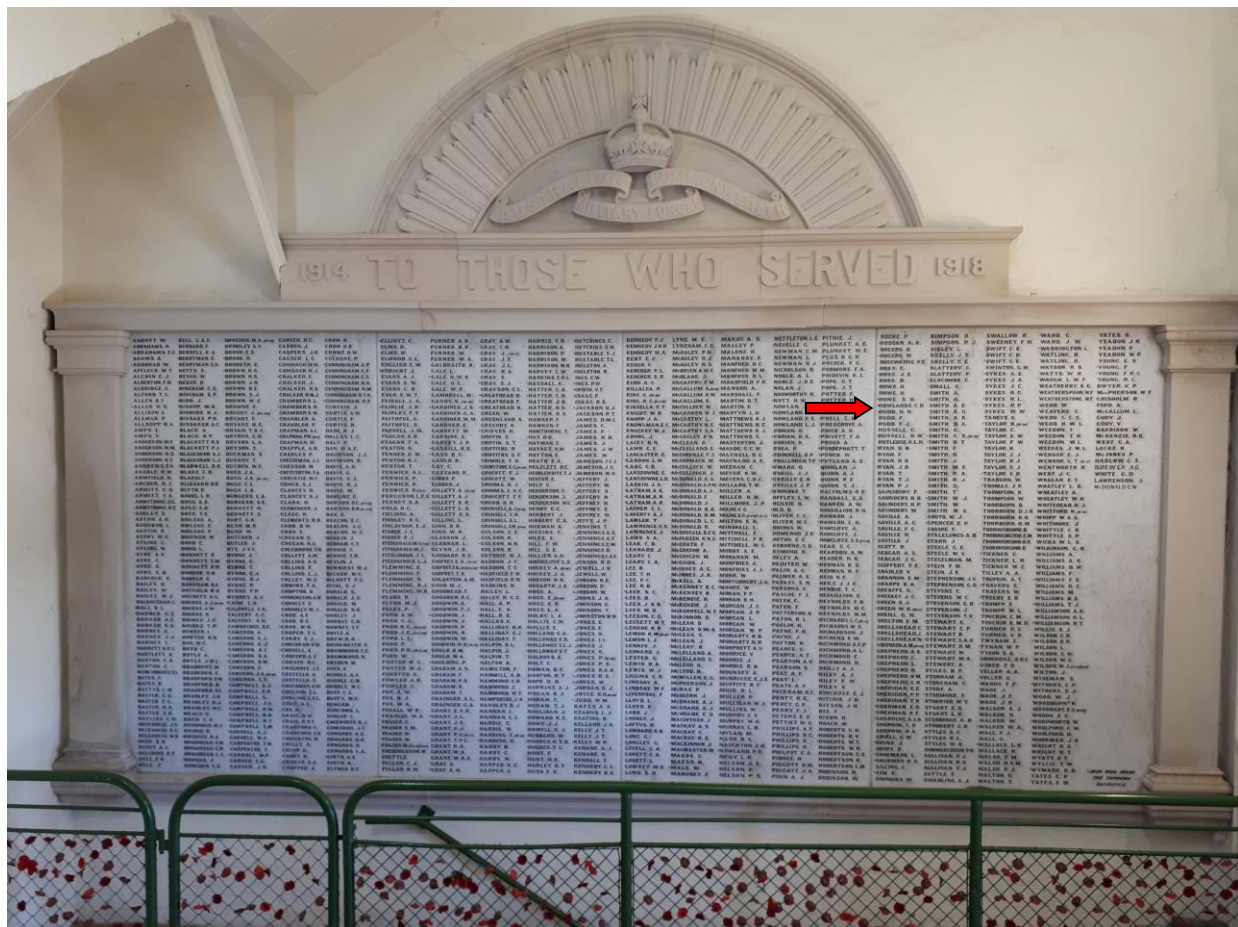


Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

C. R. Rowlands is remembered on the Rocky Hill War Memorial, located on Memorial Drive, Rocky Hill, Goulburn, NSW.



Rocky Hill War Memorial (Photos by Cathy Sedgwick)



ROWE. H.	SMITH. A.
+ROWE. S. B.	+SMITH. A.
+ROWLANDS. C. R.	SMITH. A. E.
RUBB. H. H.	SMITH. A. G.

C. Rowlands is remembered on the Collector War Memorial, located at Murray & Bourke Streets, Collector, NSW.



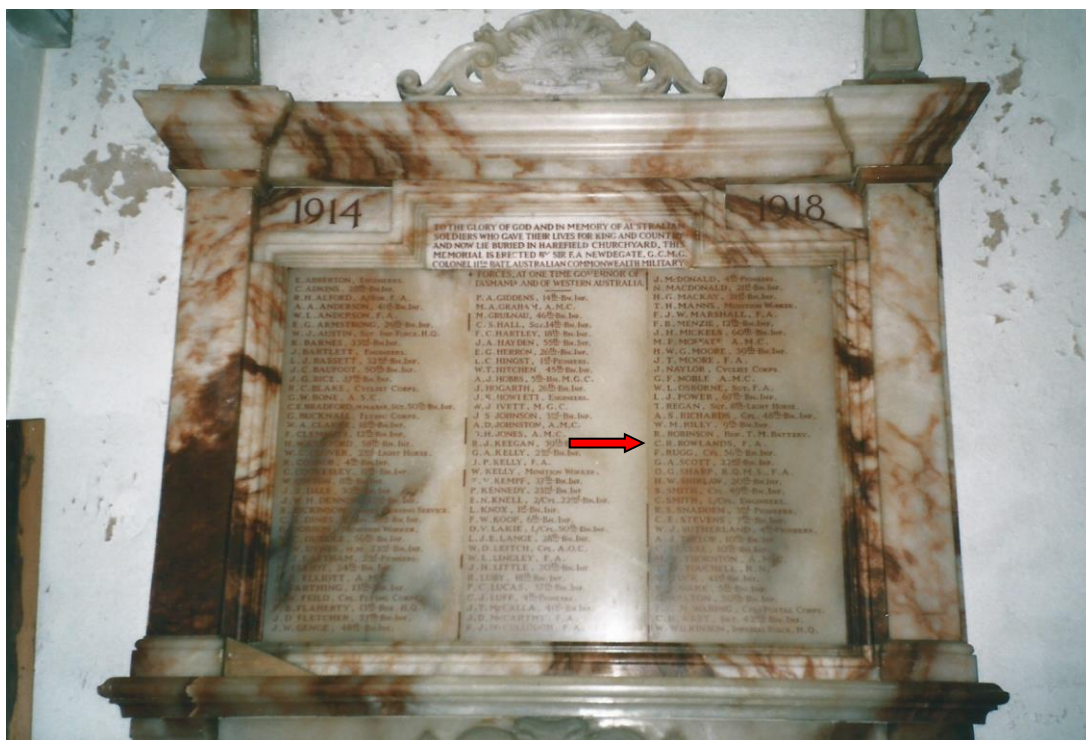
Collector War Memorial (Photos from Monument Australia – Russell Byers)



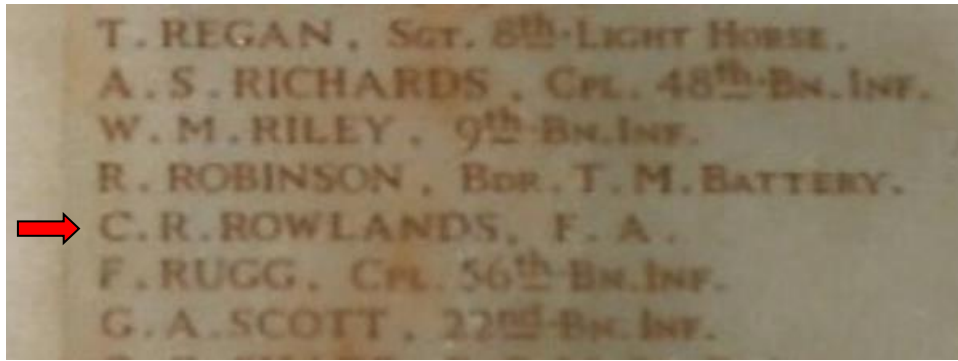
C. R. Rowlands is remembered on the Kenmore Psychiatric Hospital Memorial, located at 191 Taralga Road, Goulburn, NSW.



C. R. Rowlands is remembered in the Australian Soldiers' Memorial in St. Mary the Virgin Church, Church Hill, Harefield, Middlesex, England.



Australian Soldiers' Memorial, Harefield (Photo from War Memorials Online – B. Wood)



Australian Soldiers' Memorial, Harefield

(85 pages of Private Cecil Rupert Rowlands' Service records are available for On Line viewing at National Archives of Australia website).

Information obtained from the CWGC, Australian War Memorial (Roll of Honour, First World War Embarkation Roll, Red Cross Wounded & Missing) & National Archives



Private Cecil Rupert Rowlands was remembered in the Last Post Ceremony held at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on 8th January, 2019.

Commencing at approximately 4.55 pm AEST, the Memorial farewells visitors with its moving Last Post Ceremony in the Commemorative Courtyard. Each night the ceremony shares the story behind one of the names on the Roll of Honour.

The ceremony begins with the Australian national anthem followed by the piper's lament. Visitors are invited to lay wreaths and floral tributes beside the Pool of Reflection. An individual's story is told, and the Ode is recited by Australian Defence Force personnel. The ceremony ends with the sounding of the Last Post.

(Information from The Australian War Memorial)



Last Post Ceremony at The Australian War Memorial *(Photo from AWM)*



Last Post Ceremony at The Australian War Memorial *(Photo by Joe Lewit)*



Newspaper Notices

A VIST TO WANDSWORTH HOSPITAL



THE HIGH COMMISSION AND MRS FISHER VISITING PRIVATE C. ROWLANDS, OF GOULBURN

Private C. Rowlands, a son of Mr. Richard Rowlands, of Currawang, near Goulburn, was one of the first to volunteer, and was wounded at Gallipoli.

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 27 April, 1916)

CASUALTY LIST

The 170th Australian casualty list contains by far the greatest number of deaths yet recorded.....Gunner C. R. Rowlands, Currawang (previously reported ill) is dangerously ill.

(Goulburn Evening Penny Post, NSW – 23 May, 1916)

Goulburn and the War

DEATH OF PRIVATE ROWLANDS

A message has been received conveying the sad news that 323, Pte. C. R. Rowlands, A.A.M.C., attached to the 1st F.A. Brigade, previously reported dangerously ill, died on July 20 from jaundice and ascites in the 1st Australian Auxiliary Hospital, Harefield. The message conveyed the deep sympathy of the King and Queen and of the Commonwealth Government with the relatives, and a recognition of the loss to the army in the death of a brave soldier.

On the Rev. Father Cahill, Adm., devolved the painful duty of conveying the sad news of the death to the relatives. Pte. Rowlands was a son of Mr. R. Rowlands, of Willaroo, and was aged 23. He was an attendant at Kenmore. Pte. Rowlands took part in the Gallipoli campaign. It may be remembered that a short time since one of the Sydney papers published a photograph showing the High Commissioner for the Commonwealth (the Hon. Andrew Fisher) and Mrs. Fisher paying a visit to Pte. Rowlands who was lying ill in hospital. Sincere sympathy will be felt for the relatives in the great loss they have sustained.

(Goulburn Evening Penny Post, NSW – 25 July, 1916)

MORE CASUALTIES

NEW SOUTH WALES

189TH LIST

Died of Illness

Dvr C. R. ROWLANDS, Willaroo

(*Evening News*, Sydney, NSW – 3 August, 1916)

FELL IN THE GREAT FIGHT



PTE. CECIL ROWLANDS,

Second son of Mr Richard Rowlands, Willaroo, near Goulburn, died of illness in London on July 20.

(*Sunday Times*, Sydney, NSW – 27 August, 1916) & (*The Globe and Sunday Times War Pictorial*, Sydney, NSW – 2 September, 1916)

IN MEMORIAM

ROWLANDS – In loving memory of Pte Cecil Rowlands, died Harefield Hospital, illness, July 20, 1916, aged 26 years.

Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord.

May perpetual light shine upon him.

May he rest in peace. Amen.

Inserted by his loving father, brothers and sister.

ROWLANDS – In loving memory of Pte Cecil Rowlands, died illness, Harefield Hospital, July 20, 1916, aged 26. A good life nobly ended. Inserted by his loving aunt and cousin. A. and M. Doherty.

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 20 July, 1917)

On Active Service

ROWLAND – In loving memory of our dear son and brother, 323 Private Cecil R. Rowland, who died Harefield Hospital, England, July 20, 1916.

He lives with us in memory still,

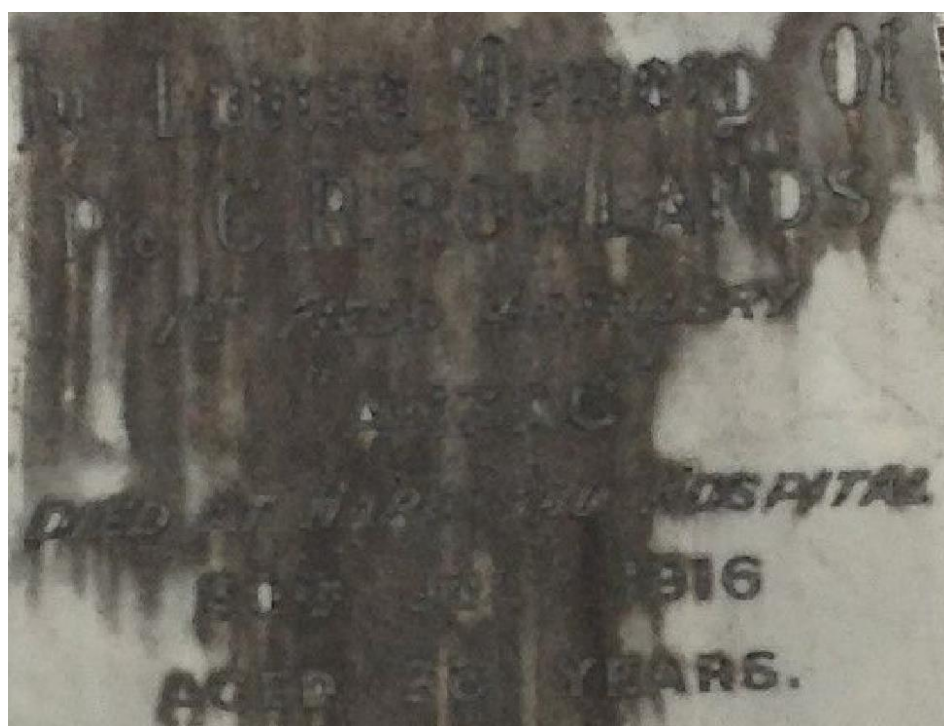
And will for evermore.

Inserted by his loving father, brother and sister.

ROWLAND – In loving memory of our dear nephew and cousin, No. 323 Private Cecil Rowland, who died Harefield Hospital, England, July 20, 1916. Inserted by his loving aunt and cousin, A. and M. Doherty.

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 20 July, 1918)

Pte C. R. Rowlands is remembered on a headstone in Currawang -Spring Valley The Hermitage Church Graveyard, NSW.





In Loving Memory Of

Pte C. R. ROWLANDS

1st Field Artillery

ANZAC

Died At Harefield Hospital

20TH July 1999 1666

Aged 26 Years

Also His

Mother & Grandmother

R.I.P.

Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstones

The Defence Department, in 1920/21, contacted the next of kin of the deceased World War 1 soldiers to see if they wanted to include a personal inscription on the permanent headstone. Space was reserved for 66 letters only (with the space between any two words to be counted as an additional letter) & the rate per letter was around 3 ½ d (subject to fluctuation).

The expense in connection for the erection of permanent headstones over the graves of fallen soldiers was borne by the Australian Government.

(Information obtained from letters sent to next of kin in 1921)

Private C. R. Rowlands does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

In Memory Of Our Dear Son & Brother

May His Soul Rest In Peace

St. Mary the Virgin Churchyard, Harefield, Middlesex, England

St. Mary the Virgin Churchyard, Harefield contains 126 Commonwealth War Graves.

During the two world wars, the United Kingdom became an island fortress used for training troops and launching land, sea and air operations around the globe. There are more than 170,000 Commonwealth war graves in the United Kingdom, many being those of servicemen and women killed on active service, or who later succumbed to wounds. Others died in training accidents, or because of sickness or disease. The graves, many of them privately owned and marked by private memorials, will be found in more than 12,000 cemeteries and churchyards.

Harefield (St. Mary) Churchyard contains war graves from both world wars. There are 120 First World War graves, mostly those of Australians who died in No. 1 Australian Auxiliary Hospital at Harefield Park. Uniquely, their graves are marked by scroll shaped headstones, chosen by the staff and patients at the hospital. In the centre of the Australian plot stands a memorial obelisk which was erected by Sir Francis Newdegate, late Governor of Tasmania and of Western Australia, and Mr. C.A.M. Billyard-Leake, of Harefield Park. The churchyard also contains six graves of the Second World War.

(Information & photos from CWGC)



St. Mary the Virgin Churchyard, Harefield





St. Mary the Virgin Churchyard, Harefield



Photo of Private C. R. Rowlands' Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in St. Mary the Virgin Churchyard, Harefield, Middlesex, England.



(Photo courtesy of Peter Bennett)



St Mary the Virgin Church, Harefield (Photo courtesy of Peter Bennett)



St. Mary the Virgin Churchyard, Harefield (Photo courtesy of Peter Bennett)



St. Mary the Virgin Churchyard, Harefield (Photos courtesy of Peter Bennett)

