

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

**War Graves**



*Lest We Forget*

**World War 1**



**759 PRIVATE**

**WILLIAM TUCK**

**41ST BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.**

**18TH APRIL, 1917 Age 37**

*Grant To Him O Lord*

*Eternal Rest*

*May Perpetual Light*

*Shine Upon Him*

## William TUCK

William Tuck was born at Flinders, Victoria on 17th December, 1880 to parents Henry & Margaret Tuck (nee Dowling). His birth was registered in 1881 in the district of Flinders, Victoria.

William Tuck attended Flinders State School – No. 841, Victoria.

The 1908 Australian Electoral Roll for the division of Flinders, subdivision of Dromana, Victoria recorded William Tuck, Farmer from Flinders.

Margaret Tuck, mother of William Tuck, died in 1910 at Flinders, Victoria.

William Tuck was a 35 year old, single, Labourer, from Flinders, Victoria when he enlisted in Townsville, Queensland on 30th December, 1915 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 759 & his religion was Roman Catholic. His next of kin was listed as his father – Mr Henry Tuck, Flinders, Victoria.

Private William Tuck was posted to “C” Company, 41st Battalion on 3rd March, 1916 for recruit training.

Private William Tuck embarked from Sydney, NSW on HMAT *Demosthenes (A64)* on 18th May, 1916 with the 11th Infantry Brigade, 41st Infantry Battalion “C” Company & disembarked at Plymouth, England on 20th July, 1916.

### 41st Battalion

The 41st Battalion was raised at Bell's Paddock Camp in Brisbane in February 1916 with recruits from Brisbane, northern Queensland and the northern rivers district of New South Wales. It formed part of the 11th Brigade of the 3rd Australian Division.

*(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)*

Reinforcements were only given basic training in Australia. Training was completed in training units in England. Some of these were located in the Salisbury Plain & surrounding areas in the county of Wiltshire.

Private William Tuck was admitted to Fargo Military Hospital, Wiltshire, England on 17th August, 1916 with Gastritis. He was discharged from Hospital on 5th September, 1916.

Private William Tuck was admitted to Fargo Military Hospital on 17th December, 1916 from 11th Training Battalion. He was discharged & was marched in to 11th Training Battalion at Durrington, Wiltshire on 29th December, 1916.

Private William Tuck was admitted to 1st Australian Auxiliary Hospital, Harefield, Middlesex, England on 1st March, 1917 with Jaundice.

A Medical Report was completed on Private William Tuck on 5th March, 1917 at 1st Australian Auxiliary Hospital, Harefield, Middlesex, England. His disability was listed as Amoebic abscess of Liver which had originated in England in July, 1916. *“Reached England in July, 1916 shortly after landing was in Hospital at Salisbury Plains for a month treated for Jaundice. After discharged was unable to do any work on account of shortness of breath. Entered hospital again 17.12.16 & has been in hospital ever since. At onset of illness he vomited a good deal but lately this symptom has ceased. He is not able to take meat on account of it causing syngostive pain. He is losing weight & had pain below right ribs. No dysentery. Not a heavy drinker.”* The abscess was on new growth of Liver & was not due to Military Service. The Officer in charge of the Medical Case recommended that Private Tuck be discharged as permanently unfit. The Medical Board agreed that private William Tuck was permanently unfit for General & Home Service.

Private William Tuck's condition was reported as seriously ill on 23rd March, 1917.

Mr H. Tuck, Flinders, Victoria, father of Private W. Tuck, was advised by Base Records on 3rd April, 1917 that No. 759 Private W. Tuck had been admitted to the 1st Auxiliary Hospital on 23rd March, 1917 suffering from a severe illness & later advice reported his condition as satisfactory. Mr Tuck was advised again on 12th April, 1917 that Private W. Tuck's condition was reported to be stationary.

Private William Tuck died at 1.55 am on 18th April, 1917 at 1st Australian Auxiliary Hospital, Harefield Park, Harefield, Middlesex, England from (primary) Amoebic abscess of Liver & (secondary) Empyema.

A death for William Tuck, aged 35, was registered in the June quarter, 1917 in the district of Uxbridge, Middlesex, England.

Private William Tuck was buried at 2.30 pm on 21st April, 1917 in St. Mary the Virgin Churchyard, Harefield, Middlesex, England – Grave No. 18. This is now recorded by Commonwealth War Graves Commission as Plot number - Aust. 18. (Note: Some forms in the Service Record file have recorded that Private Tuck was buried on 18th April, 1917. The Burial Report form recorded he was buried on 21st April, 1917)

*From the burial report of Private William Tuck - Coffin was good, Polished Elm. The deceased soldier was buried with full Military honours. The Staff Band of the 1st Australian Auxiliary Hospital, Harefield was in attendance. Gun Carriage and Firing Party (Royal Fusiliers) provided by the London Command were present. The "Last Post" was sounded by a bugler of the A.I.F. at the graveside. Members of the Staff and Patients under the command of Captain Shaw, M.O., marched in the funeral procession. The Revd. Father Octavien of Rickmansworth officiated at the graveside. Floral tributes were sent by the High Commissioner for Australia, Patients & Nursing Staff of the 1st Australian Auxiliary Hospital, Harefield, and Mr & Mrs Billyard Leake of Harefield. No relatives were present at the funeral. Erection of Memorial to be carried out by the Commonwealth Military Authorities.*

Private William Tuck was entitled to British War Medal only as he had not entered a Theatre of War. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Private Tuck's father – Mr H. Tuck, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent March, 1922 & Plaque sent July, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private William Tuck – service number 759, aged 37, of 41st Battalion Australian Infantry. He was the son of Henry and Margaret Tuck, of Flinders, Victoria, Australia.

Private W. Tuck is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 134.



*Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia*

W. Tuck & his brother H. T. Tuck are remembered on the Flinders War Memorial, located on The Esplanade & Cook Streets, Flinders, Victoria.



Flinders War Memorial (Photos from Monument Australia – Sandra Brown)



W. Tuck is remembered on 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)



(49 pages of Private William Tuck's 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) & National Archives

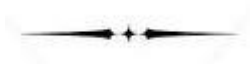
**Connected to Private William Tuck:**

Younger brother – Henry Thomas Tuck – Enlisted 27th July, 1915 as an 18 year old, single, Farmer from Flinders, Victoria.

Embarked from Melbourne, Victoria on HMAT Ceramic (A40) with 4th Infantry Brigade, 14th Infantry Battalion, 12th Reinforcements as Private 3937.

Killed in action 11th August, 1916. Remembered on Villers-Bretonneux Memorial, France.

Entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & Victory Medal.



**Private William Tuck**

*(Photo from Peninsula Essence April 2020)*



## Newspaper Notices

### AUSTRALIAN CASUALTIES

#### 290TH LIST

Died of Illness

Pte W. TUCK, Flinders

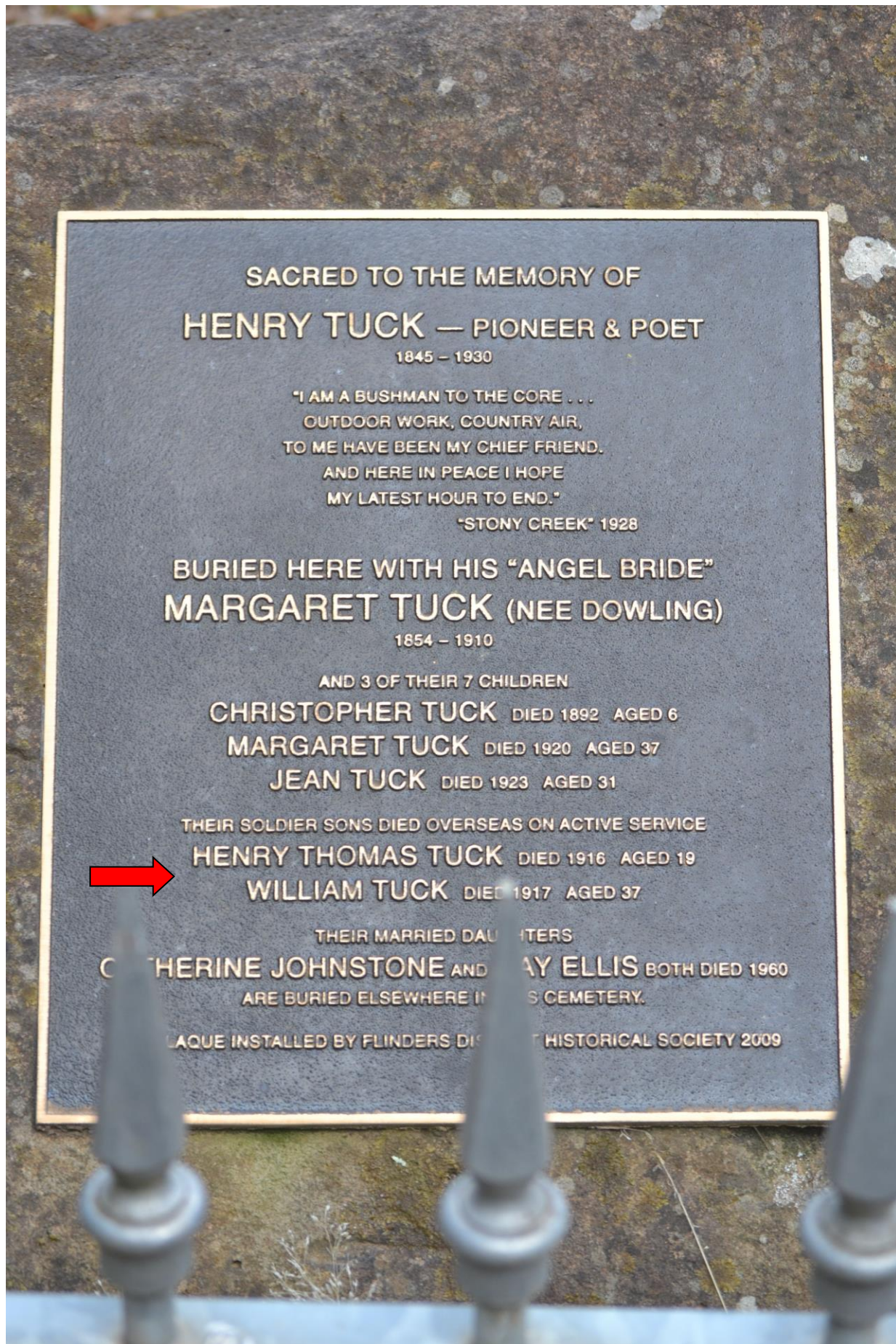
*(The Bendigo Independent, Victoria – 1 May, 1917)*

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William Tuck & his brother Henry Thomas Tuck are both remembered on their parents' headstone in Flinders Cemetery, Stokes Street, Flinders, Mornington Peninsula Shire, Victoria.



*(Photo from Find a Grave – JAN)*



SACRED TO THE MEMORY OF  
**HENRY TUCK — PIONEER & POET**  
1845 – 1930

"I AM A BUSHMAN TO THE CORE . . .  
OUTDOOR WORK, COUNTRY AIR,  
TO ME HAVE BEEN MY CHIEF FRIEND.  
AND HERE IN PEACE I HOPE  
MY LATEST HOUR TO END."

"STONY CREEK" 1928

BURIED HERE WITH HIS "ANGEL BRIDE"  
**MARGARET TUCK (NEE DOWLING)**  
1854 – 1910

AND 3 OF THEIR 7 CHILDREN

**CHRISTOPHER TUCK** DIED 1892 AGED 6

**MARGARET TUCK** DIED 1920 AGED 37

**JEAN TUCK** DIED 1923 AGED 31

THEIR SOLDIER SONS DIED OVERSEAS ON ACTIVE SERVICE

**HENRY THOMAS TUCK** DIED 1916 AGED 19

**WILLIAM TUCK** DIED 1917 AGED 37

THEIR MARRIED DAUGHTERS

**CATHERINE JOHNSTONE AND MAY ELLIS** BOTH DIED 1960

ARE BURIED ELSEWHERE IN THIS CEMETERY.

PLAQUE INSTALLED BY FLINDERS DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY 2009

(Photo from Find a Grave – Tanya V)



### 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 W. Tuck does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

*Grant To Him Lord Eternal Rest*

*May Perpetual Light Shine Upon Him*

### **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.

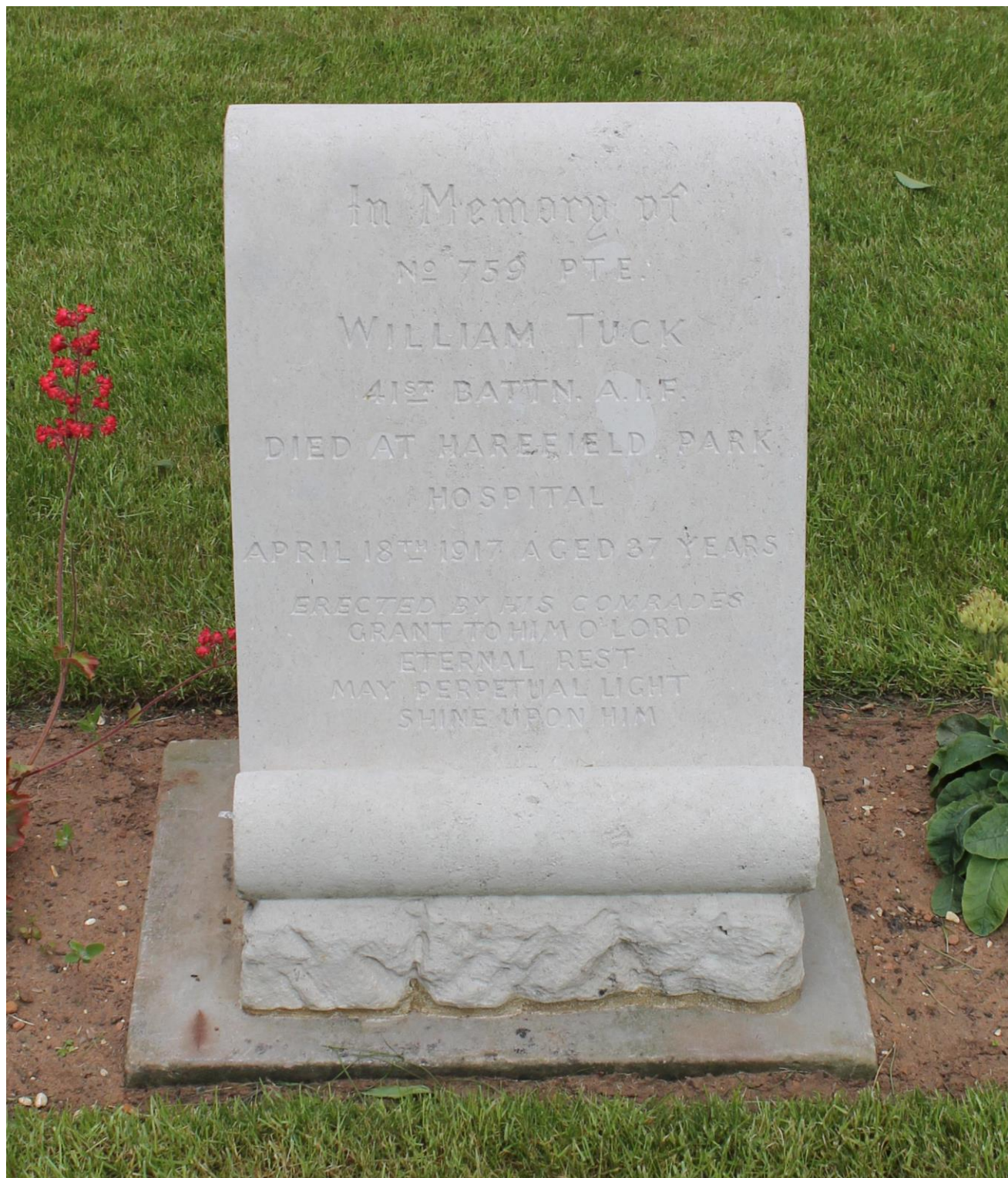
Harefield (St. Mary) Churchyard contains war graves from both world wars. There are 120 First World War graves, mostly those of Australians who died in No. 1 Australian Auxiliary Hospital at Harefield Park. Uniquely, their graves are marked by scroll shaped headstones, chosen by the staff and patients 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)*





Photo of Private William Tuck's 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)

