

## The St Edmund's Church Archivist's Report

There seemed to be more interest in the Archives in 2022, and this is to be welcomed.

Extra storage space and shelving was fitted in St Edmund's vestry for the archive. I would like to offer grateful thanks to Steven Capps for all his hard work.

There was the a grave discovered at the East end of the churchyard which was subsiding and needed resealing and the Archivist was asked to look for information about the grave. It is that of a 19<sup>th</sup> century individual named James List, and there are several other List family graves in this part of the churchyard. Given the apparent circumstances, it has been suggested that the grave space may have been used to store smuggled goods at some point. Some parts of the story are known locally and certainly are of interest. There is known to be a tunnel under the Sloop Inn which was used to land these goods. The other end is in Ivy Hall nearby, but the entrance is not accessible. Since churchyards were often used in this way, the story is at least a possibility and some local families were known to have had connections with smuggling.

We need permission to reseal the grave and are attempting to trace the descendants of James List, whose permission, if they are contactable, would be required, otherwise permission from the diocese will be sought.

One of our members has been asked about mapping burials in St Edmund's churchyard using his computer expertise. A fair amount of professional recording was done in the 1980s and I have gathered records and created an up to date list from the burials register. It may be worth producing an up to date burials index for sale. However, if mapping is done, I think professional help may be required, so any suggestions or pointers would be gratefully received. As a long term member of the Local History Forum, I may be able to obtain help and information as well as helping my colleague.

Some time ago I created a record of the furnishings in St Mark's. As some of them are by well-known designers, I would like to rewrite this record for future reference.

Plans for the friends of St Edmund's Open Weekend in 2023 are in progress. The main theme will be transport: help and ideas will be welcomed.

A couple who I helped a few months ago about a family grave are planning another visit, to continue enquiries. They are descendants of Frank Cowper, a well-known author and sailor of the later 19<sup>th</sup> Century, who lived on Wootton Creek.

Apart from the above, general questions from the archive are answered as required. Queries are welcome.