

PERSONAL REFLECTIONS ON A FAMILY SEARCH AT ALL SAINTS CHURCHYARD

Having been researching my family tree for a while I realised that a large proportion of my Hadlow family came from / lived around Whitstable, and one church came up for baptisms, weddings and burials time and time again, All Saints.

In August 2019 I visited the area and looked around the outside of the (lovely) church and graveyard. I couldn't find any Hadlow's in resident!

Whilst planning a visit a year later I decided to contact the church and see what help I may get this time. The vicar Simon responded to my request for help very quickly and was very apologetic that a small charge had to be made for any such research / help, I had no hesitation in making the payment, which turned out to be very much worth while personally, as well as, of course, helping the church.

Simon and Dave immediately started to correspond by email in a very helpful way.

At first the search for Hadlow's in the church records did not turn up much and it was suggested that I might have to carry out research at Canterbury Cathedral first.

However, a little very interesting history of one of my relatives was discovered, in that she donated to the church in the early 20th century! This alone would have made my contact with the church worthwhile.

But Dave had not given up and managed to find the grave of my third great grandfather, who had died in 1896, as well as one of his sons who died in 1908, which was a great result!

It was established that other relatives were in fact buried at the church, but plot numbers were unavailable, however, we could visit the graves of other possible relatives, on whom I could now carry out further research with the information provided.

Overall, it was a great experience to actually see something physical in relation to my family tree research, rather than just working remotely from home with what a computer can find. Simon and Dave were very helpful and it was a pleasure to meet Dave and his wife briefly at the church. I hope that we might have occasion to meet up again and share research.

Derek Hadlow