

Cemeteries' Records – Cemetery Factsheet

Exeter's Old Cemeteries – St Bartholomew's Yard and New Cemetery



Bartholomew's Yard burial ground was opened on 24th August 1636 by Bishop Hall of Exeter, because the burial ground at Cathedral Yard was overcrowded. A church was built in the nineteenth century at the southern end of the burial yard, and was named All Hallows on the Wall.

By the 1830s, Bartholomew's Yard was also almost full. When many residents died during the 1832 cholera outbreak a corner of Bury Meadow had to be used for a mass grave. A new cemetery and catacombs was planned, to be built below Bartholomew's Yard, below the city wall. The catacombs were built between 1835 and 1837 and the New or Lower Cemetery was located on the slope of the hill below the catacombs. More than 17,500

interments took place before the Lower Cemetery was closed in 1949, while the catacombs only held 16 bodies before being abandoned as a failure.

Devon Heritage Centre holdings:

Available on microfilm in the searchroom:

MFC 169/1	St Bartholomew's Yard, Exeter – Cemetery Register	1834 - 1837
	St Bartholomew's New Cemetery - Cemetery Register	1837 - 1842
	St Bartholomew's New Cemetery - Cemetery Register	1842 - 1845
	St Bartholomew's New Cemetery - Cemetery Register	1845 - 1847
MFC 169/2	St Bartholomew's New Cemetery - Cemetery Register	1847 - 1849
	St Bartholomew's New Cemetery - Cemetery Register	1849 - 1853
	St Bartholomew's New Cemetery - Cemetery Register	1853 - 1859
	St Bartholomew's New Cemetery - Cemetery Register	1859 - 1865
	St Bartholomew's New Cemetery - Cemetery Register	1865 – 1874
MFC 169/3	St Bartholomew's New Cemetery - Cemetery Register (rough copy with causes of death)	1850 – 1858
	St Bartholomew's New Cemetery - Cemetery Register (rough copy with causes of death)	1858 – 1865
	St Bartholomew's New Cemetery - Cemetery Register (rough copy with causes of death)	1865 - 1946
	St Bartholomew's New Cemetery – Cemetery Register (certified copies, some entries in burial registers)	1864 - 1870

Dissenters' Burial Ground, Exeter

This burial ground is in Magdalen Street, Exeter. It has been closed for over 150 years. The site was used as a burial ground between 15th October 1748 and 23rd June 1854. It is now owned by the Exeter Dissenters Graveyard Trust.

The burial ground was associated with the Unitarian church and other non-conformist congregations, and the congregation who attended the George's Meeting House in South Street, Exeter used the burial ground. Burials took place in the Dissenters' Burial Ground in Magdalen Street burial ground [and around the George's Meeting House itself], up to 1854.

Devon Heritage Centre Holdings

3693D/R1	George's Meeting Burial Register	1837 - 1882
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Other Records

3693D/B/1	Report and account book of Dissenters' Burial Ground	1748 – 1832
3693D/B/2	Folding containing correspondence about road widening in Magdalen Street and purchase of part of Dissenters' Burial Ground (Wynards Rest) by Exeter City Council	1950s – 1960s
4251	Monumental Inscriptions, Exeter Dissenters' Burial Ground	

The fragments of earlier registers of Presbyterians, Unitarians, Quakers and Independents which survive are held at the [National Archives](#) at Kew, near London, under the collection references RG4 and RG6. Some of the burials recorded in these registers probably took place at the burial ground on Magdalen Street, so they are worth checking for individual burials.

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