

Fight the good fight

All of these apart from Isaac Newton (a boot maker) are known to have been Methodist lay preachers. We know from the diary of Wesleyan schoolmaster Abraham Kaye that Isaac was elected as a steward to the Methodist Circuit in January 1851. The North West area of the churchyard is said by some to be the 'Methodist' part, and this is to some extent borne out by what we know of many of the families here. It was not the wish of John Wesley (1703-1791) to separate from the Church of England and during his lifetime Methodist Chapels were called "Preaching Houses", the Parish church being used for baptisms, marriages and burials. Perhaps unsurprisingly four out of the five chose the same John Wesley hymn for their epitaph.

To be buried "under Burial Laws Amendment Act 1880" means that the person buried was a non-conformist; the burial service was performed by a Non-Conformist minister, but in the Parish Church as the burial was going to take place in the churchyard (consecrated ground). Many other non-conformist church members e.g strict Methodists, Baptists etc. had to be buried in unconsecrated ground, as their religion was not recognised as such by the established church. The Bingham municipal cemetery was opened in 1888 so there was presumably no question of the dissenting chapels opening their own burial ground once burials in other than parish churchyards was permitted.

1839 NW117 CASTLEDINE Henry (Snr) 51
Henry (jnr) 69

(below first name)

I have fought the good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith

(Timothy 4:7)

(below second name)

Servant of God well done.

Rest from thy love employ

The battle's fought, the victory won,

Rest in the Master's joy

(Based on hymn by John Wesley, 1770, which was inspired by: "Well done, good and faithful servant."

Matthew 25:2)

1874 NW021 BREWSTER George 63

(George)

He was forty years a local preacher amongst the Primitive Methodists

(Edith)

Absent from the body, present with the Lord.

Servant of God well done.

Rest from thy loved employ

The battles fought the victory won.

Rest in the master's joy.

(Based on hymn by John Wesley, 1770, which was inspired by: "Well done, good and faithful servant."

Matthew 25:2)

1875 NW100 TOWERS John 56

Servant of Christ well done

Praise be thy new employ

And while eternity shall last

Rest in thy master's joy

(Based on hymn by John Wesley, 1770, which was inspired by: "Well done, good and faithful servant."

Matthew 25:2)

1877 NW079 NEWTON Isaac 48

I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course. I have kept the faith, henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness.

(Timothy 4:7)

1905 **NW097** CASTLEDINE Henry 67
 Servant of God well done
 Rest from thy loved employ
 The battle's fought, the victory won
 Rest in thy master's joy
(Based on hymn by John Wesley, 1770, which was inspired by :“Well done, good and faithful servant.”
Matthew 25:2)

Specials

These stones are separated from the main study because the epitaphs are clearly descriptive of the individual concerned and do not fit any of the models identified earlier.

1780 **SW024** STEWARDSON Mathew 62
 This stone erected by the joint contributions of the Society of Singers and Ringers in this town to perpetuate his memory & also a manifest token of their concern for the loss of so valuable a member

1836 **SW060** PETTY George 66
(George)
 Who was one of the churchwardens of this Parish 18 successive years

1832 **SE130** BAXTER George 8
 He was to all the country dear

1841 **SE149** WOOD Thomas 81
 He was well known for more than half a century as an ingenious carver of Tomb & Grave Stones

1850 **SW079** HART Thomas 82
 Beneath this stone lies Thomas Hart
 Years 58 he took the part
 of Parish Clerk few did excel.
 Correct he read and sung so well,
 his words distinct his voice so clear
 till eighteen hundred fiftieth year
 death cut the brittle thread and then
 a period put to his amen.
 At eighty two his breath resign'd
 to meet the fate of all mankind.
 The third of May his soul took flight
 to mansions of eternal light.
 The hell for him with awful tone
 his body summoned to the tomb.
 Oh may his sins be all forgiv'n
 and Christ receive him into heav'n.

1876 **NE093** BAXTER George 80
 for 60 yrs a local preacher

1882 **NW055** HART Tom 21
A member of 2nd Notts. R.V.
This stone was erected by his comrades and friends as a token of respect

1906 **NE078** DROOSTEN Percy Howard 56
 Loved by all of Bingham during the 25 years she spent in God's service in the Parish
 (Former Rector)