

ST. PETER'S CHURCH, FORDCOMBE

BAPTISMS, MARRIAGES, BURIALS

1849 - 2009

From 1849-1870 the Church was known as St. Peter's Chapel, Parish of Penshurst, and from 1870 had its own Vicar, with his own, separate, Parish of Fordcombe.

BAPTISMS **1784**

From the first, on 11th February 1849 to end of December 2009.

MARRIAGES **411**

From the first, on 2nd July 1871 (no longer a Chapel) to end of December 2009.

BURIALS **1365**

From the first, on 5th March 1849 (including ashes) to end of December 2009.

NOTES

It is interesting to note that, in the decades up to the end of the 1970s, there was a fairly constant number of marriages, averaging 34 per year and ranging from a high of 44 (almost one a week) in the 1890s, to a low of 27 in the 1950s. In contrast there were only 10 in the 1980s and 13 in both the 1990s and 2000s. This probably matches the present decline in matrimony nationally, as there has not been a reduction in the village population, rather the opposite with new housing and the post-war advent of Hedge Barton.

The other noteworthy statistic is the much higher number of baptisms than burials, with both dating from 1849 (where marriages started only 22 years later). It would take much research to discover why this is so. Interestingly, a subjective glance through the books suggests that the age of death is generally high, with many in their 70s and 80s and not so many infant or minors' deaths, which indicates that Fordcombe has been a healthy place to live in. One burial, in fact the first, is rather poignant: it merely notes the date and "Found drown'd in the Meadows". No name, no age, not even gender!

JCCS 13 March 99 (updated Oct 2015)

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DECADE	POP*	BAPTISMS	MARRIAGES	BURIALS**
1849-1859	c.500#	281	n/a	167
1860-1869		209	n/a	161
1870-1879		191	32	153
1880-1889	665*	176	34	133
1890-1899		161	44	107
1900-1909	558*	112	39	97
1910-1919		83	38	94
1920-1929	512*	92	33	89
1930-1939	572*	79	37	79
1940-1949		100	31	77
1950-1959		70	27	59
1960-1969		58	28	39
1970-1979		39	32	41
1980-1989^^		43	10	17
1990-1999^^		40	13	24
2000-2009	576***	50	13	28
Totals	n/a	1784	411	1365
Averages	n/a	111	29	85

NOTES

- # Approximate figure quoted in bid to build a Fordcombe church
- * Population as recorded in Kelly's Directories
- ** Burials include Penshurst residents, some Poundsbridge & ashes
- ^^ No burials or ashes recorded in the years 1980, 1989 or 1990
- *** Electoral Roll (i.e. adults) in 2006 (Penshurst = 714)