

# The Henley Cemetery

The Henley Cemetery is situated at the north end of the Fair Mile (A4130). It stands on the boundary of Henley and the parish of Bix and Assendon.



The cemetery keeper's lodge at the entrance to Henley Cemetery



The Church of England chapel seen over the cemetery wall

The cemetery was opened in 1868. It has a wall running round its boundary that originally enclosed four acres of land. This area was extended to the north in the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

A cemetery keeper's lodge stands at the main entrance. There is a second entrance onto the A4130 dual carriageway. At the north end of the lodge a water supply with buckets and basic tools was maintained for visitors tending the graves. Vehicles were only admitted to the site for funerals.

The lodge was sold as a private dwelling at the end of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The site is now open for vehicles on its main roadways.

The cemetery was opened with two chapels. In the 19<sup>th</sup> century a service was held in one of these every Sunday at 3.00 pm.

The chapels are now Grade II listed buildings. They have not been in regular use for thirty years and had fallen into disrepair. Recently work has been undertaken to make them safe and available for use again.

The first chapel was for non-conformist use. It originally had a bell-cote, but this has been removed for safety.



The second chapel was for the Church of England. The belfry, spire and door arch have been rebuilt as part of essential safety refurbishment work.

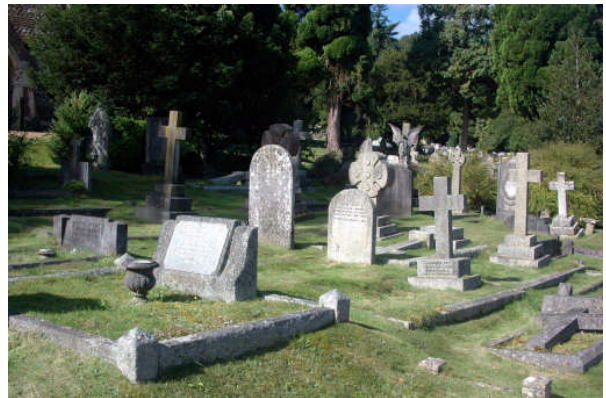


Each chapel has a nave and short chancel, a gabled porch and is fitted with stained glass windows. The construction is of knapped flint with stone dressings. The interior was of a simple design with an altar, altar rail and wooden benches. There was no organ or piano, so services were generally held without hymns.

When they were in constant use and a cemetery keeper was employed, the chapels were open for visitors. Today they are kept locked.



View across the cemetery to the Anglican chapel



Some of the gravestones in the cemetery