

Notes on the Kildwick Typhoid Epidemic – 1

Identifying those who died

The Kildwick typhoid epidemic raged from December 1898, when the MP for Keighley Mr. John Brigg returned feeling unwell to his home Kildwick Hall, to the end of March 1899 when the last of the victims was discharged from the isolation hospital at Morton Banks and the temporary hospital which had been set up in the former Kildwick school was closed.

It seems reasonable to make the first step in researching this tragic event the identification of the 10 victims, all from Kildwick, who died. Unfortunately, this turns out to be a far from straightforward task, and a number of sources need to be investigated.

Newspaper reports

Newspaper reports of the time record the first death in some detail: this was Stanley Baldwin, who died on January 12th 1899. Thereafter, however, the reports become rather coy and don't give much in the way of detail; there is only one address given for any of the victims (the White Lion Hotel) and, in some cases, names are not given at all – only their relationship to other victims.

Records of Memorial Inscriptions

A survey of the graveyard at St. Andrew's church, Kildwick, was carried out in the late 1990s by the Keighley Family History Group. This records the inscriptions of all the memorials standing at that time. Unfortunately, only one mentions deaths being the result of the typhoid epidemic.

Burial records

Burial records for St. Andrew's church in this period are held at the North Yorkshire County Records Office, in Northallerton. Fortunately, the microfilm is perfectly readable (this isn't always the case).

All the entries for the period, beginning with the burial of Stanley Baldwin on January 18th 1899 and continuing through to the end of March, are reproduced below.

Entry no.	Name	Age	Where died	Date buried (all 1899)
2354	Stanley Baldwin	22	Morton Banks isolation hospital	January 18 th
2355	Thomas Christopher Brown	59	Lane House, Silsden Moor	January 20 th
2356	Mary Ann Tillotson	40	Morton Banks isolation hospital	January 26 th
2357	John Bancroft	76	Lane House, Kildwick	January 27 th
2358	Mary Barritt	19	Kildwick	January 31 st
2359	Mary Riley	45	Menston Asylum	February 1 st
2360	John Laycock Barritt	27	Kildwick	February 2 nd
2361	Sarah Pollard	78	Middleton, Farnhill	February 4 th
2362	Martha Petty	76	Kildwick	February 4 th

Entry no.	Name	Age	Where died	Date buried (all 1899)
2363	Robert Sharpe	3 weeks	Steeton	February 6 th
2364	Elizabeth Bottomley	70	Crosshills	February 7 th
2365	Alice Palfreyman	76	Littleborough	February 9 th
2366	Sarah Barritt	23	Kildwick	February 9 th
2367	Margaret Sugden	49	Kildwick	February 11 th
2368	John Sugden	21	Kildwick	February 14 th
2369	Frances Annie Watson	22	Farnhill	February 22 nd
2370	Marjorie Tillotson	10	Morton Banks isolation hospital	March 6 th
2371	William James Baugh	22	Farnhill	March 15 th
2372	John Smith	64	Eastburn	March 18 th
2373	Abraham Petty	38	Kildwick	March 19 th
2374	John Hill	56	Junction	March 29 th

Note: Although not a victim of the typhoid epidemic, the record of the burial of Robert Sharpe (#2363) is interesting. He was one of twins, both of whom died shortly after birth; the burial of his brother is recorded in January, aged just 2 days.

Conclusion – a memorial list

By combining the burial records, memorial inscriptions and contemporary newspaper reports, it has been possible to construct a full list of the 10 people who died in the epidemic.

Stanley Baldwin (aged 22) Died January 15 th	<p>The death of Stanley Baldwin was recorded in full in a number of the local newspapers, including this¹.</p> <p><i>Kildwick – A Funeral in Place of a Wedding</i> – On Sunday afternoon last the death occurred under painful circumstances of Mr. Stanley Baldwin, aged twenty-two, of Kildwick, at the Keighley and Bingley Infectious Diseases Hospital. The deceased had been taken to hospital a few days earlier suffering from typhoid fever. ... The banns of the deceased's marriage had been read for the third time at the Kildwick Parish Church in the morning. In fact, preparations for the marriage had got quite advanced, and the choir of the church had met to decide on the form their gift should take. Mr. Baldwin had been a useful member of the choir, having been connected with it since boyhood. ... At the grave-side the choir sang "Lead, kindly light" amid a touching scene. A muffled peal was subsequently rung on the church bells. The choir sent a beautiful wreath of white flowers.</p>
Mary Ann Tillotson (aged 40) Died January 23 rd	<p>Stanley Baldwin's sister, who nursed him in the early stages of his illness. Mary was a well known figure in the Kildwick community and just a month before her death had been responsible for providing the annual parish tea, held at the school, in which 200 people sat down to eat².</p>
Mary Barritt (aged 19) Died January 29 th	<p>The first of three children of the Barritt family to die: all three would be dead and buried within a fortnight.</p>

John L. Barritt (aged 27) Died January 31 st	The second of the Barritt children to die, the eldest son of the family. The suffering of this family is clear in this report ³ : <i>... While the remains of Mr. Barritt's daughter [Mary] were being interred in the churchyard on Tuesday amid a most impressive scene, another member of the same family, viz. John, aged 27, was found, on return home of the mourners to have succumbed.</i>
Martha Petty (aged 76) Died February 1 st	Another well known figure, having been the landlady of the White Lion Hotel for many years. Martha was reported to have been ill for about a fortnight before she died ⁴ .
Sarah Barritt (aged 23) Died February 8 th	In a letter to the Craven Herald ⁵ , her father, John Barritt, called Sarah " <i>my eldest daughter, ... her mother's right hand in everything.</i> "
Margaret Sugden (aged 49) Died February 9 th	Margaret was the sister of William Sugden, the local coal merchant, with whom she lived. According to the Keighley News ⁶ : <i>... on Tuesday and Wednesday morning she seemed fairly well, but this, unfortunately, proved the preliminary to a grave change. ... the end came about eleven o'clock.</i>
John Sugden (aged 21) Died February 12 th	The second son of William Sugden; Margaret Sugden's nephew ⁷ : <i>He took to his bed rather over a fortnight ago, and has been attacked with a severe form of the disease. The number of deaths is thus raised to eight.</i>
Marjorie Tillotson (aged 10) Died March 3 rd	Marjorie Tillotson was the youngest of those who died, and had been diagnosed as early as January 16 th . Her death was sudden and unexpected ⁸ : <i>... the eldest of the three orphans of the late Mrs. T. Tillotson ... The disease has thus carried away three members of this ill-fated family [the other two being Mary Ann Tillotson and Stanley Baldwin] ... The unfortunate girl had suffered most acutely, and on Saturday [February 28th] had a return attack of the fever after having become almost convalescent.</i>
Abraham Petty (aged 38) Died March 18 th	Perhaps this final death was the saddest of all, as it could possibly have been prevented. This, from the Craven Herald ⁹ : <i>Last Friday morning, Mr. Abe Petty, farmer, White Lion Inn, Kildwick, died at his home from typhoid fever. This is the tenth fatal case since the outbreak of the disease, and is the second at the White Lion Inn, Mr. Petty's mother [Martha] having succumbed on February 1st. The deceased is the man who had been walking about with the disease upon him for a fortnight under the impression, apparently, that he could throw it off. He was 38 years of age.</i>

Identifying the graves

It has been possible to identify and record the graves of all 10 of the victims of the Kildwick typhoid epidemic. All are in the old churchyard of St. Andrew's.

BALDWIN, Stanley (d. 15/1/1899)



Form: Originally an ornate cross on plinths.

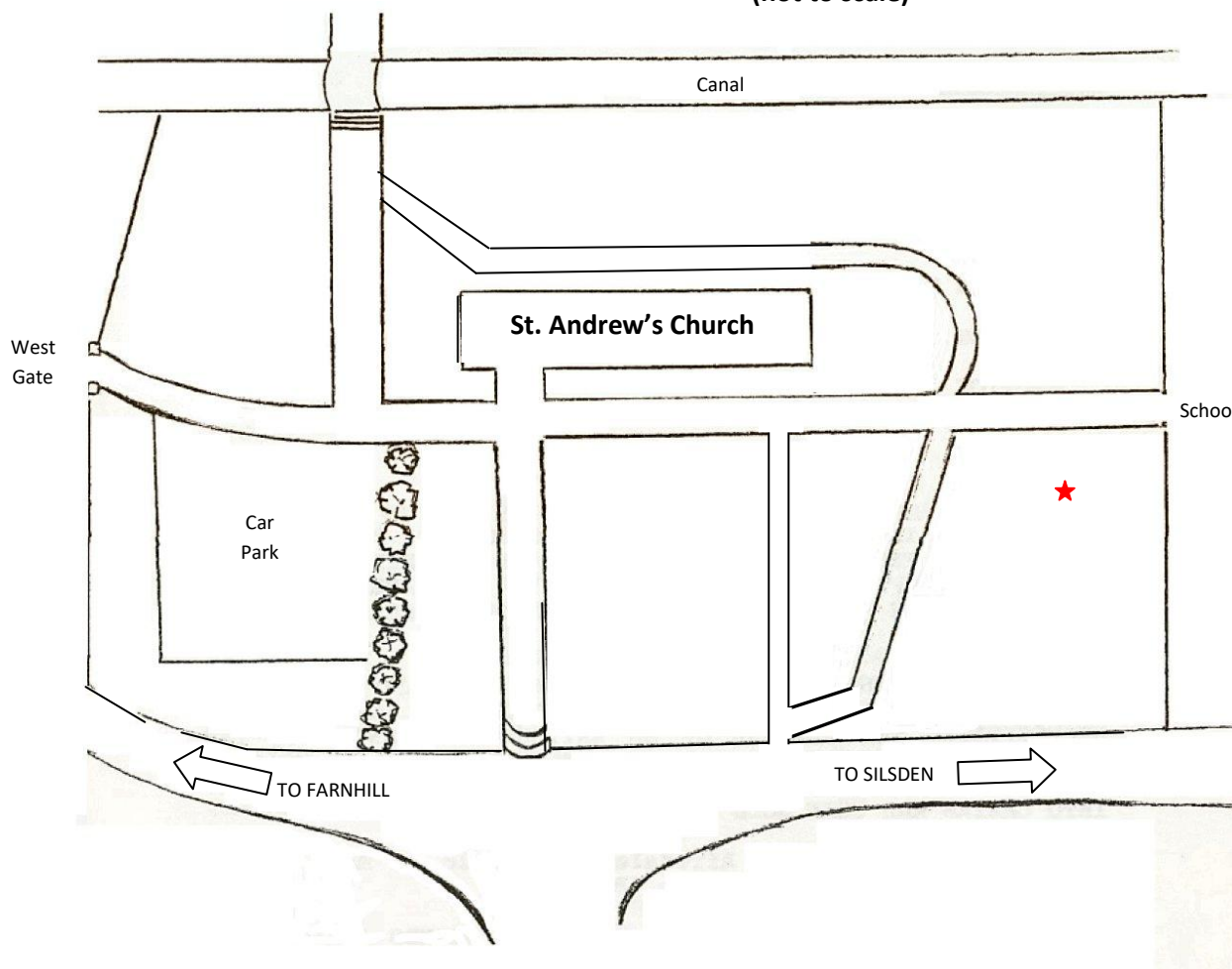
Condition: Cross and plinth now laid flat on the grave and partially overgrown.

Inscription: On three sides:

- Front – In memory of Thomas Baldwin of Farnhill who died December 10th 1885 aged 55 years. Also Judith his wife who died June 17th 1880 aged 44 years.
- Left – Also David their son born June 29th 1864 died November 30th 1898.
- Right – Also **Stanley** their son born September 3rd 1876 died January 15th 1899.

Approximate location:

**ST. ANDREW'S CHURCHYARD
(not to scale)**



Other names on this memorial:

BALDWIN, David; d. 1898

BALDWIN, Judith; d. 1880

BALDWIN, Thomas; d. 1885

Notes:

The news report of Stanley Baldwin's death mentions that he was about to get married – but who to remains a mystery. (The records of the Banns of Marriage for 1898/9 for St. Andrew's church are lost.)

His sister Mary Ann Tillotson would die on January 23rd and her daughter, Marjorie, on March 3rd.

Mary Barritt (d. 30/1/1899)

John Laycock Barritt (d. 31/1/1899)

Sarah Barritt (d. 8/2/1899)



Form: Kerb surround; cross on plinths, surmounted by an angel.

Condition: Good, though partially overgrown. The large carved stone urn reported to be positioned on the grave in 1998 has been removed and/or destroyed.

Inscription: On three sides:

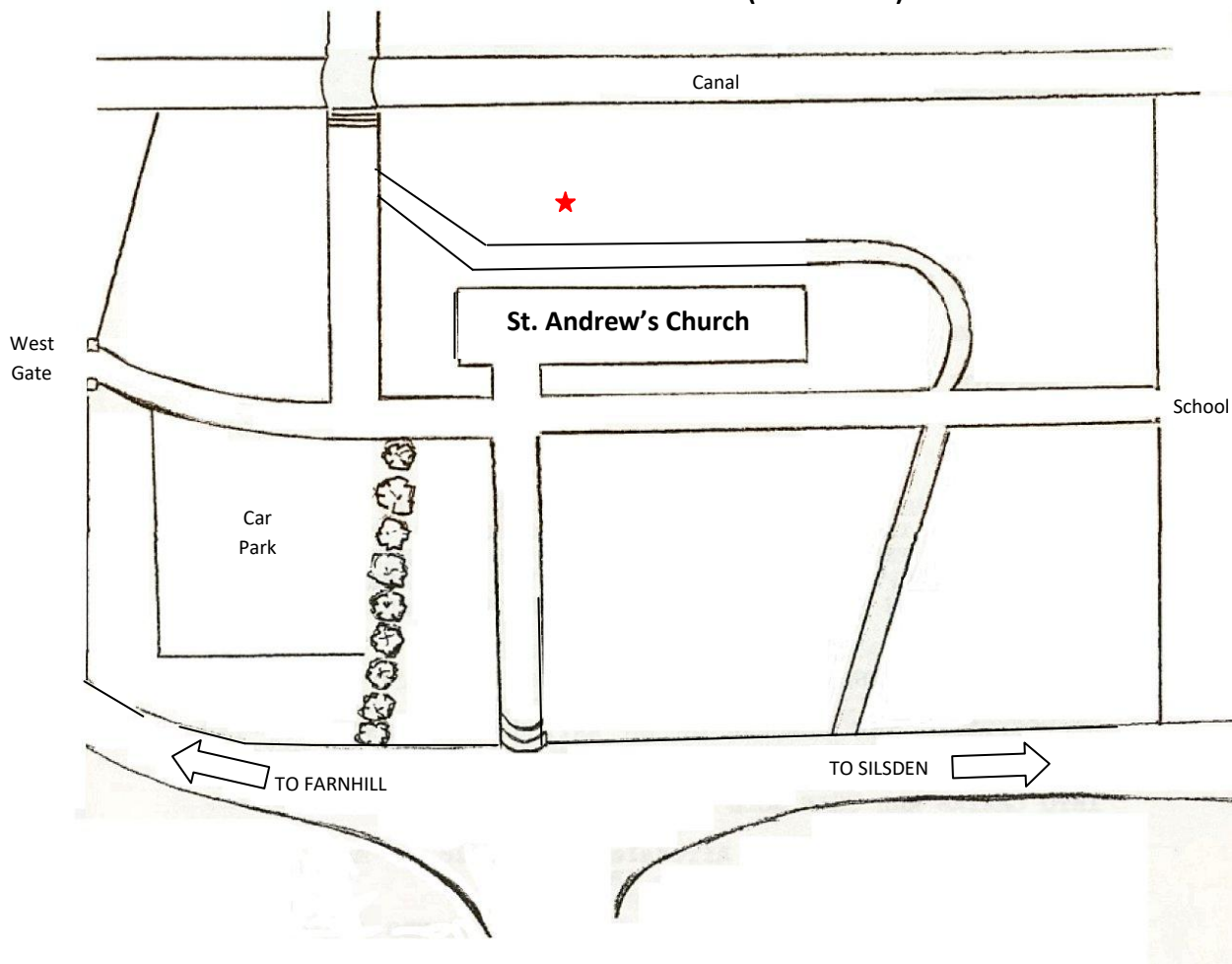
- Front – Beneath this stone rest the bodies of **John, Sarah** and **Mary** the beloved son and daughters of John and Margaret Ann Barritt who died of Typhoid Fever during the Kildwick epidemic. **Mary** died January 30th 1899 aged 19 years. **John** died January 31st aged 27 years **Sarah** died February 8th 1899 aged 23 years.



- Left – Also the aforesaid John Barritt died October 23rd 1912 aged 65 years. Also of Margaret Ann his wife who died November 28th 1922 aged 70 years.
- Right – In loving memory of William Barritt their son died May 19th 1948 aged 74 years. Also Jane his dearly beloved wife who died November 29th 1957 aged 85 years.

Approximate location:

**ST. ANDREW'S CHURCHYARD
(not to scale)**



Other names on this memorial:

BARRITT, John; d. 1912
BARRITT, Margaret Ann; d. 1922
BARRITT, Jane; d. 1957
BARRITT, William; d. 1948

Notes:

John Barritt, the father, was a stonemason in Kildwick and it is likely that he built the memorial. The family lived in Church Terrace (now that part of Priest Bank Road that backs on to the churchyard). As we will see in later Notes, he was to play a major part in the story of the epidemic.

The epigram, below the memorial inscription to the three Barritt children, is derived from the Second book of Samuel, chapter 1, verse 23: "*Saul and Jonathan were lovely and pleasant in their lives, and in their death they were not divided: they were swifter than eagles, they were stronger than lions.*"

Martha Petty (d. 1/2/1899)
Abraham Petty (d. 17/3/1899)



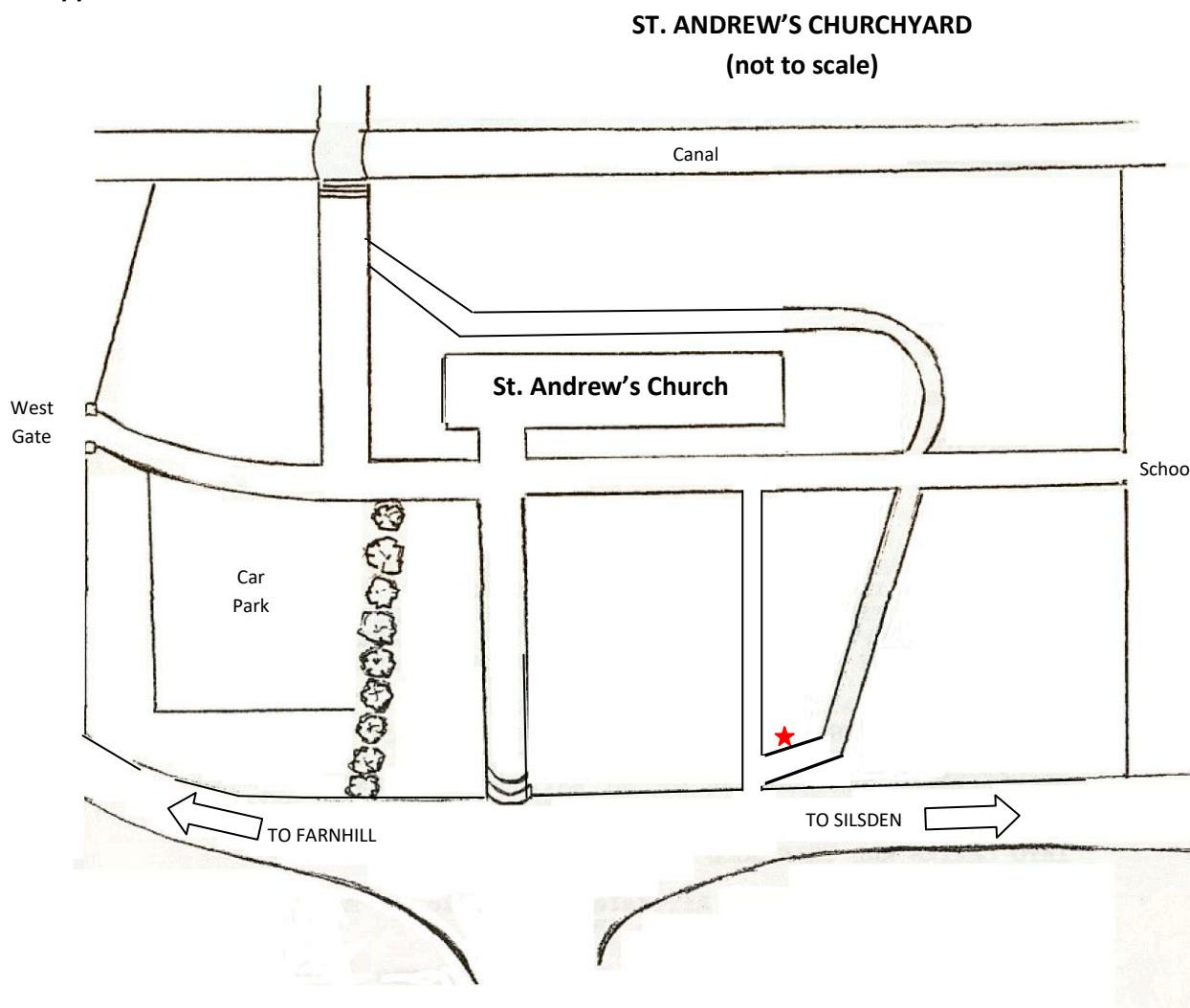
Form: Cross on plinths.

Condition: Good but considerable undergrowth and moss on the inscription.

Inscription: On three sides:

- Front – In memoriam. Abraham Petty of Kildwick born 2 October 11 died 7 June 1872. **Martha** his wife born 6 November 1823 died 1 February 1899. **Abraham** their son born 5 May 1860 died 17 March 1899. Emily their daughter born 14 May 1858 died 20 October 1900.
- Left – Mary their daughter born May 27th 1844 died March 2nd 1902. Margaret their daughter born November 21st 1852 died June 11th 1902.
- Right – Elizabeth their daughter born 2nd March 1850 died 27th December 1863. John their son born 9th August 1867 died 29th July 1888. John his son died in infancy.

Approximate location:



Other names on this memorial:

PETTY, Abraham (d. 1872)
PETTY, Elizabeth (d. 1863)
PETTY, Emily (d. 1900)
PETTY, John (d. 1888)
PETTY, John (d. *not recorded; an infant*)
PETTY, Margaret (d. 1902)
PETTY, Mary (d. 1902)

Notes:

Martha Petty was well known in the village as the landlady of the White Lion.

Abraham Petty was the final victim of the epidemic. He did not seek medical attention, believing that he could shake off the illness without treatment.

John Sugden (d. 12/2/1899)





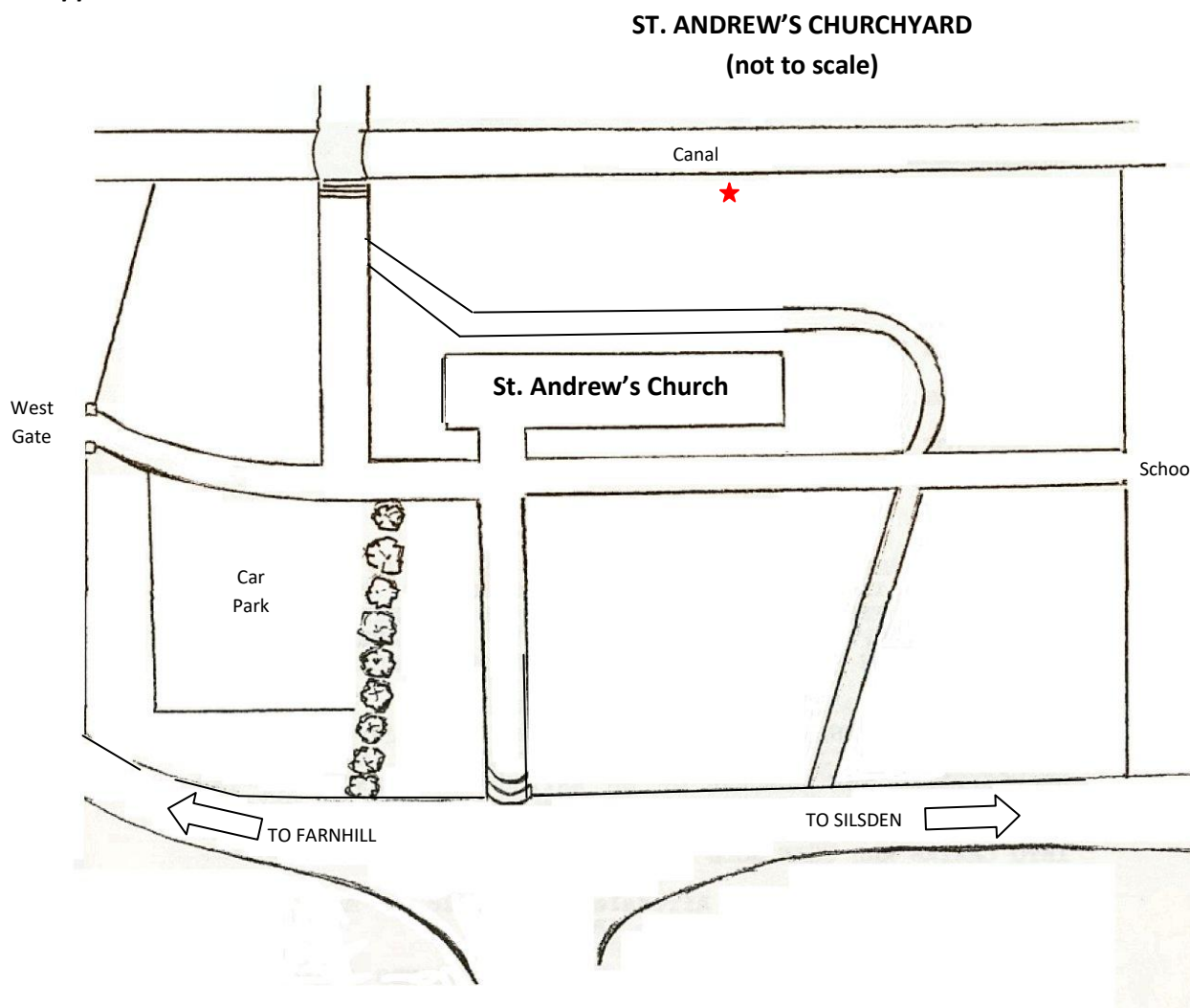
Form: Cross on large plinths.

Condition: Only the plinth now standing. The cross has been removed and is almost totally overgrown.

Inscription: On front and left side:

- Front – In loving memory of Benjamin third son of William and Christiana Sugden of Kildwick born April 6th 1880 died October 26th 1887. Also **John** second son of the above who died February 12th 1899 aged 21 years.
- Left – Also of the aforesaid William Sugden of Holme Bank Kildwick died April 4th 1931 aged 88 years. Also Christiana his wife died June 13th 1935 aged 90 years. Also Thomas Edward fourth son of the above died June 22nd 1955 aged 69 years. Also Mary Elizabeth his wife died November 27th 1974 aged 64 years.

Approximate location:



Other names on this memorial:

SUGDEN, Benjamin (d. 1887)
SUGDEN, Christiana (d. 1935)
SUGDEN, Mary Elizabeth (d. 1974)
SUGDEN, Thomas Edward (d. 1955)
SUGDEN, William (d. 1931)

Notes:

William Sugden, the father, was a coal merchant. He operated a coal yard on the canal in Farnhill that used the coal-chutes on Skipton Road, Kildwick.

The family home, Holme Bank, was until recently St. Andrew's church vicarage.

Margaret Sugden (d. 9/2/1899)

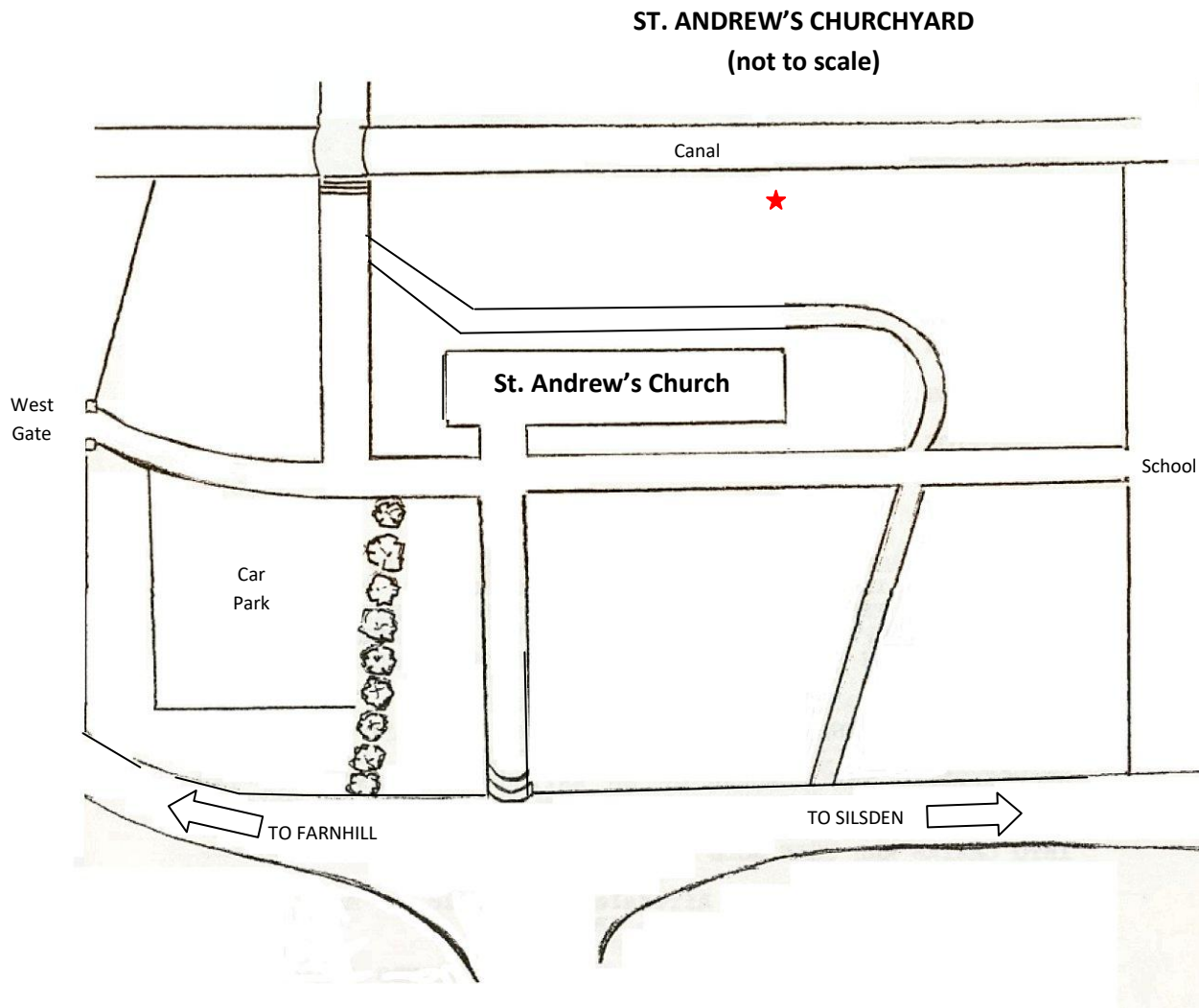


Form: Large flat stone.

Condition: Good but almost totally overgrown and located with difficulty.

Inscription: In loving memory of Hannah wife of John Sugden, Junior, of Farnhill who died suddenly January 16th 1854 in the 42nd year of her age. Also of Millison their daughter who died May 14th 1855 in the 15th year of her age. Also two of their children who died in infancy. Also the aforesaid John Sugden who died July 12th 1874 in the 64th year of his age. Also **Margaret** their daughter who died February 9th 1899 aged 49 years.

Approximate location:



Other names on this memorial:

SUGDEN, Hannah (d. 1854)

SUGDEN, John (d. 1874)

SUGDEN, Millison (d. 1855)

Notes:

Margaret was living with her brother, William Sugden, at Holme Bank, at the time of her death.

Her nephew, John Sugden, died three days later.

Mary Ann Tillotson (d. 23/1/1899)

Marjorie Tillotson (d. 3/3/1899)



Form: Cross on plinths.

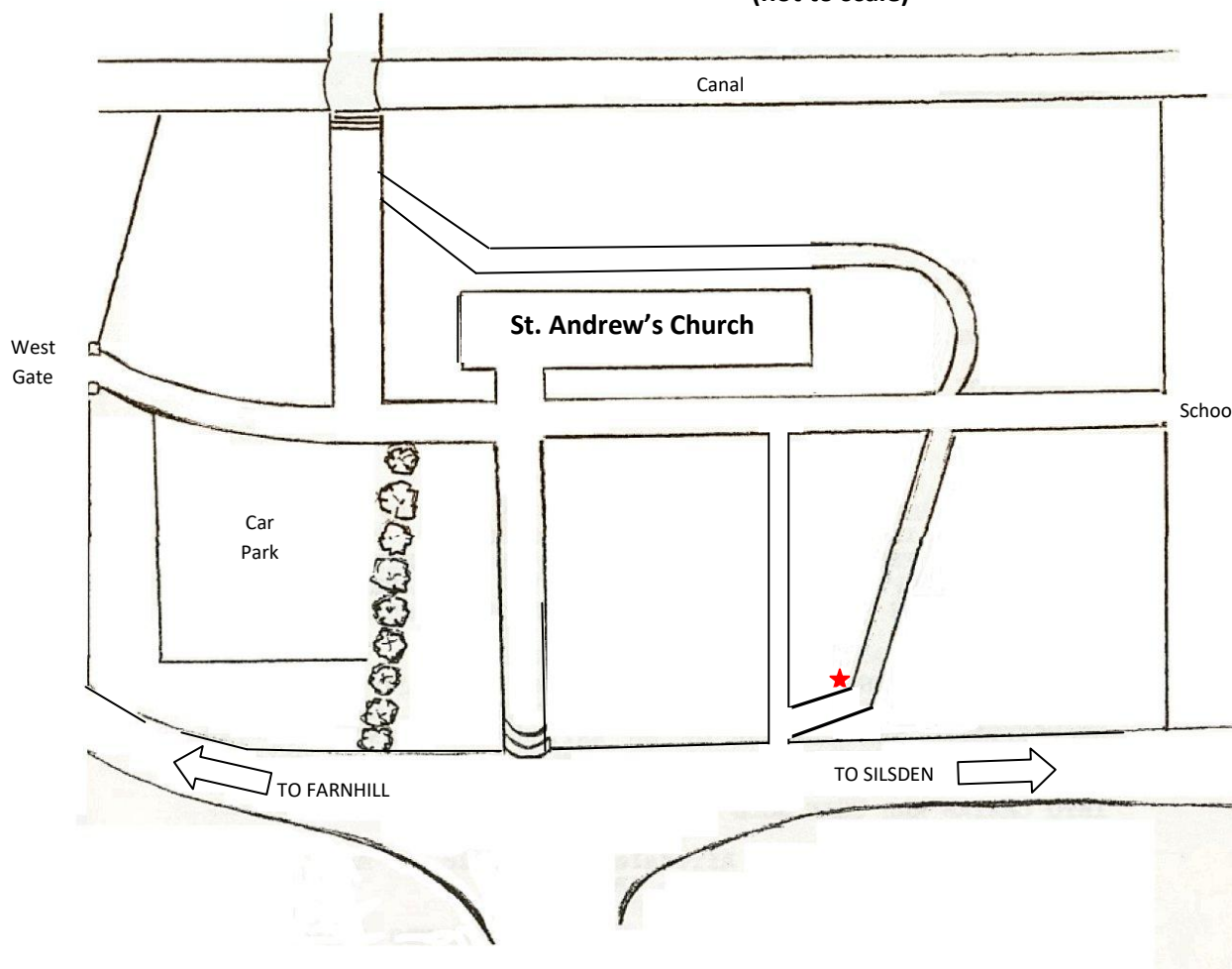
Condition: Good but inscription difficult to read due to moss and lichen.

Inscription: On three sides:

- Front – Here resteth the body of Tom Tillotson of Kildwick born February 26th 1860 died July 22nd 1893. Also Francis Eric his son who died in infancy. Also **Mary Ann** his wife born September 21st 1858 died January 23rd 1899
- Left – Also **Marjorie** their daughter born November 14th 1888 died March 3rd 1899. Also Hannah Baldwin born March 5th 1874 died May 7th 1902.
- Right – Also their daughter Norah Brenda Bronte died March 23rd 1941 aged 48 years.

Approximate location:

**ST. ANDREW'S CHURCHYARD
(not to scale)**



Other names on this memorial:

BALDWIN, Hannah (d. 1902)
TILLOTSON, Francis Eric (d. *in infancy*)
TILLOTSON, Norah Brenda Bronte (d. 1941)
TILLOTSON, Tom (d. 1893)

Notes:

Mary Ann Tillotson was the sister of Stanley Baldwin, the first victim of the typhoid epidemic.

References

- 1 Keighley News, January 21st 1899
- 2 Keighley News, January 7th 1899
- 3 Craven Herald, February 2nd 1899
- 4 Keighley News, February 4th 1899
- 5 Craven Herald, February 24th 1899
- 6 Keighley News, February 11th 1899
- 7 Craven Herald, February 17th 1899
- 8 Keighley News, March 4th 1899
- 9 Craven Herald, March 23rd 1899