

Walking round the tower – and did you notice it is rectangular?, which is quite unusual – make your way over to the cremated graves where you will notice these don't provide the same habitat as the vertical ones. In the same way, neither do the modern 'finished' graves, which are of course easier to clean. So the ebb and flow of resolving one problem/creating another continues as we tackle matters of the environment.

The lichen look good on the wall (8) behind the cremated graves. You'll notice the stone changes, this is because there was actually a cottage in the grounds just here. There are some wonderful photos of this, found on the Historic England's Red Box collection, enter Berrow -

<https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/photos/englands-places/>

Then make your way back to the church path, passing one final gravestone (9) at a very dizzy angle but with more wonderful lichen.

Your visit will be complete if the swifts are wheeling above. Do count them! We are delighted to have a colony that returns yearly to nest especially above the porch but all round the eaves.

Thank you so much for your support ~

With every blessing,  
*Elisabeth Rambridge*  
 Churchwarden in the Parish of  
 Berrow with Pendock



## LOVE YOUR BURIAL GROUND WEEK JUNE 5<sup>TH</sup> TO 13<sup>TH</sup> 2021



**COUNTING SWIFTLY  
 &  
 LIKING LICHEN  
 AT  
 ST FAITH'S  
 CHURCHYARD,  
 BERROW**



## Welcome to St Faith's Churchyard

We do hope you enjoy this gentle walk round the churchyard, seeing the lichen on the gravestones. A Guide to Lichens is available: crustose, foliose, yellow, white, green, brown – seek 'em out! You'll see the first set (1) on the left as you walk along the path up to the church; the Preaching Cross (2) is an ancient piece of sculpture that probably had a small altar shape at its top which was hacked or hammered off in the Reformation.

On then to another fine example of a headstone (3) – have a look at the lichen on the back of this stone also. The headstone (4) by the trees has an amazing array of lichen. At the east/ Chancel end of the church you'll see a fine array of sandstone headstones with ornate decoration (5 & 6).

Admire the French drain around the church – which is the Churchwarden's pride and joy! In case you didn't know, a Mr French developed this kind of drain rather than it being from our neighbours across the Channel. The drainage has played a huge part in resolving the problem of damp, so common in old churches.

Tarry a while to admire the fine pointing on the church – in 3 different shades as 3 different companies worked on the project to remove all the cement pointing which creates rather than solves the eternal problem of damp!

Then on to the wilder side of the churchyard and this cross-shaped headstone (7) covered in lichen. Notice how the older graves face west, the new east. Please sing out if you know why.

A young congregation member has created the splendid Bug Hotel – a 5\* one – as part of his service for the Duke of Edinburgh project. As you turn round to the south side of the church, marked by a triangle on the map you'll see clearly a mound and it is thought this is a grave pit from the Black Death (1346-53). This is a sobering thought anyway but with more resonance during the current Covid pandemic. Once the population recovered, the church was extended with the addition of this south aisle.

If you go to church or like visiting churches, you'll have realised, usually you enter a church by the south door. The lay out of the churchyard with the main part of the church on the north side is not so common, perhaps indicating a very ancient, pre-Christian settlement.

Look out for the stones on the church wall that have a cross marked on them (there are arrows on the route). There's lots of debate about what these are. Possibly they are consecration marks which were

often installed on a church and blessed.

There's also one round the corner, near the tower, which is of better quality.

Do say if you have any ideas.



Professor Stefan Buczacki answered the most important question which is how do you pronounce – lichen? He recommended it far better to say – **'liken'** than 'litchen'. So that's a good issue to resolve.