

The Churchyard

From the main entrance to the church, walk out and turn left into the old churchyard. There is a quiet bench on which to rest awhile if you like—it is a peaceful space.

Since the consecration of St Chad's in 1792, the churchyard was used as a burial ground for the parishioners, and many of those remembered on the [Hatchments](#) (on display inside the church) are here. However it is now maintained by the local Council and there are no recent burials.

There are two particular gravestones of considerable interest.

Ebenezer Scrooge—a fictitious burial, of course! In 1984 Dickens's 'A Christmas Carol' was filmed in Shrewsbury. Streets were closed off, period costumes were seen all over the town, and a local lad played Tiny Tim. The Ghost of Christmas-yet-to-come shows the terrified Scrooge a gravestone but goes on to explain that the future is not necessarily written in stone and he can choose to amend his miserly ways. Scrooge survives.

Charles Bage (d. 1822) —an English architect. Working with Simpson and Hazledine, he designed the iron-work for the first ever iron-framed building, the Ditherington flax mill. Completed in 1797 and located a few miles from this church, it is the grandfather of all skyscrapers. The three also worked on St Chad's, completed five years earlier; further details are [here](#). Occasional devastating factory fires made iron-framed brick-clad factories an attractive alternative to wood, and there was a rapid spread of similar buildings throughout Britain during the Industrial Revolution, several built by Bage.

More information on Bage, and others, is on the Visitors page [here](#).

