



External Tour

St Symphorian's Church, Veryan

Around The Church	
	<p>Well of St Symphorian</p> <p>This Grade II listed Holy Well was listed on 27 November 1985. It is believed to have a medieval core with additional decoration possibly by Samuel Trist in 1847. The well was restored in 1912. It is semi-circular in plan and built in the slope of the land. It has a symmetrical east front with the doorway to the well set low. The body of the well head has rocky abutments and a flat top supporting a tapered octagonal granite shaft on a square chamfered base and capped by a trefoil roll gable finial.</p>
	<p>Veryan War Memorial</p> <p>The Memorial is in the form of a Celtic Cross. At first sight it appears that the names on the Memorial are in a random order. On closer examination it is found that the men are named roughly in the order which they died.</p>
Inside The Churchyard	
	<p>Standing facing the church, take the left hand path heading towards the playing field. This walk around the outside of the church shows its unusual plan with its south tower. The churchyard contains over seven hundred memorial headstones, which record only a small proportion of the thousands of parishioners who are buried here. The oldest stones are in the lower part of the churchyard, nearest the church. All the memorials in the churchyard have been recorded for the Cornwall Family History Society, and a copy can also be seen by arrangement with the churchwardens. The upkeep of the churchyard is a major responsibility for the PCC: care and maintenance of individual memorials is the responsibility of the families of those buried here.</p>
	<p>On the outside of the north wall of the church are two memorial tablets. One to Charles Kempe who died in 1817 and the other to the family of Jeremiah Trist's mother-in-law Elizabeth Fincher who died in 1790.</p>
	<p>Near the little gate leading to the playing field is a slate, now embedded in an ancient beech tree, reminding the reader of the brevity of human life "Here rest the village dead...". It is likely that these verses are the work of Jeremiah Trist.</p>



External Tour

St Symphorian's Church, Veryan

	<p>Just up the steps from the gate is the memorial to our "Waterloo" soldier, Philip Clear who died in 1829 "of a decline" after surviving the battles of the Peninsular campaign. A booklet describing Philip Clear's story can be purchased in the church.</p>
	<p>The tower is 60 feet high, but looks shorter, as the ground immediately surrounding it is several feet above the level of the tower floor.</p>
	<p>Near the tower are two substantial vaults, one containing the remains of Richard Thomas of Trertheake and the other the remains of many members of the Trist family.</p>
	<p>The south porch contains the south or "Portloe" door, now largely unused, the door itself is of some antiquity.</p>
	<p>Returning to the front of the church, take the path that heads up the hill. This leads to the largest grave in the churchyard. The biggest funeral ever to take place in Veryan was that of the crew of the "Hera" which ran on to the outer rocks of Gull Rock in 1914 with the loss of nineteen lives. The grave is reputed to be the longest marked grave in Britain. A booklet giving more information regarding the "Hera" can be purchased in the church.</p>