

## **Births and deaths Chinnor**

### **Aim**

Analysis of the records was aimed at identifying family and geographical clusters and their possible causes. This was dependant on the information available in the records the format of which changed over the decades making families and relationships difficult to identify. The format for this record has taken into account the changing demography and epidemiology of prevailing illnesses and causes of death and should be read in conjunction with the available information in appendix A.

### Village records

According to the Domesday Book, the population of Chinnor in 1086 was: 26 villagers, 2 smallholders and 4 slaves.

In 1538 Parish registers began under the direction of Thomas Cromwell Earl of Essex who ordered priests in every parish to keep a weekly record of baptisms, marriages, and deaths occurring within their parish.

### **Factors influencing data analysis.**

Methods of recording parish data changed over time and information regarding the deceased varied which could make identification of family links difficult. From 1622 only the fathers name only was recorded on the registers however, after 1790 the mother's name was included. Between `1622 and December 1790 no ages were included in the records making it difficult to assess infant and child mortality except by cross referencing with the baptism records and noting the babies who died within one year of baptism. The number of infant deaths under one year constitutes one factor in calculating infant mortality; the second statistical part is not possible for Chinnor due to the small numbers involved. An Act of Parliament 1<sup>st</sup> October 1783, decreed that 3d was to be paid per burial, baptism and marriage and family linkage was designated by stating w. wife, s. son or d, of the named father. After 1790 this ceased, although occasionally the designation of wife was included and the age of the deceased was included in the records but without family linkage for example, children to their parents, it is difficult to identify families except where they are identified by location, for example, 'of Oakley'. In 1813 the father's occupation was included in the baptism register. By 1813 the family links appeared to have been discontinued although ages were included. Before 1837 when registration of births marriages and deaths was introduced it is impossible to know cause of death although, occasionally, cause of death was recorded for example accidents or easily identified infectious diseases such as smallpox ie in 1802. Where age and family linkage was recorded clusters and family members were easier to identify. By the early nineteenth century age at death was later and fewer child and infant deaths were recorded, some years there being no infant/child deaths and these have been indicated.

Questions relating to the accuracy of death certificates had been the subject of debate from the 1950s and has continued into the 1990s. In the period under research, the lack of sophisticated diagnostics which are available today could result

in a margin of error and reflected the prevailing medical knowledge at the time.<sup>1</sup> However, based on the information on the available death certificates, Appendix A has been compiled, and appears to indicate a weighting towards chest infections as a primary or ultimate cause of death.

## Method

Where possible death certificates were obtained and known records regarding epidemics were consulted. Records held at Oxford History Centre were consulted in relation to register of infectious illness including tuberculosis. The first census was taken in 1801 when the population of Chinnor was given as 862. It can be assumed that the population prior to that date was less than 862 and the impact of the death rate evaluated accordingly. 1550-1850 little ice age. The analysis is set out in 10 year blocks with the average death rate per year overall and unusual increases indicated. Where records allow, male, female and child/infant numbers have been described. Family groups have been identified and unusual entries highlighted this has been set against historical events as they may have had an influence on the burial figures. Records do not always subscribe to the January-December format and run from March/April. Where this has happened the numbers and information has remained faithful to the original records to simplify future searches.

The use of historical records is always going to throw up gaps and discrepancies depending on the reliability of the recorder. Further note on the reliability of parish records was that after 1800, Church of England records estimated that 30% of baptisms did not appear in the baptism register. One reason for this, it has been suggested, was that the gap between birth and baptism extending and raising the possibility of the infant dying before being baptised.<sup>2</sup>

Two other peaks in the mortality rate occurred in 1899, with 18 deaths and 4 infants and a child of 16 months. The infants died in July and August, a very warm summer with a monthly mean maximum temperature of 24.9°C in August. 1903 saw 20 deaths, 2 were infants and 2 children aged two years. It was very wet with 913.8 mm of rain, predominantly in May, June, and October, with a monthly mean maximum temperature in July of 20.7°C. In 1922 there were 27 deaths from a population of 973 of which 18 were over the age of 70. Lower than average summer temperatures, the monthly maximum temperature being 19.9°C for June 18.5°C July and 18.1°C for August the deaths occurring throughout the year.

Different infections peak in each of the four seasons but for each pathogen, the timing and characteristic of the annual outbreak are generally consistent from year to year; however, they could be altered slightly by climatic variations. Winter brought influenza, pneumonia and the rotavirus, whilst diphtheria peaked in autumn leading into November and December with scarlet fever, also a disease of the winter months, rising in September peaking in October and decreasing in December. Spring brought measles and German measles along with their complications of

<sup>1</sup> Accuracy of Death Certificates, *BMJ*, 2, 5109 December, 6 (1958), 1399-1400. Andrew Diehl, and Donald Gau, 'Death Certification by British Doctors: a demographic analysis', *Journal of Epidemiology and Community Health*, 36, 2 June, (1982), 146-149. W. Dana Flanders, 'Inaccuracies of Death Certificate Information', *Epidemiology*, 3, 1, January, (1992), 3-5

<sup>2</sup> Michael Drake and Ruth Finnegan, *Studying Family and Community History vol. 4 Sources and Methods: a handbook* (Cambridge, 1994), p. 72.

pneumonia and encephalitis. Measles was, and still is, a very serious viral disease which peaks during March, April and May, whilst the summer months produced polio and the enteroviruses such as typhoid, cholera and diarrhoea, the most common cause of death in children under five years. The roll call nationally and locally included: measles, whooping cough, chickenpox, scarlet fever, diphtheria and mumps, and these often required the child being excluded from school. A selection of childhood mortality figures 1911-1915, showed annual deaths nationally from tuberculosis as 46,459, diphtheria, 23,380 and measles, 48,986

Between 1901 and 1947 there were 72 cases of measles and one death in Chinnor. Complications of this infection included: encephalitis, pneumonia, blindness and deafness. The biggest outbreak of whooping cough was 1947 with 11 cases and five deaths were noted. In all there were only 13 cases of diphtheria recorded and one death and between 1900. In July 1907 the school was closed due to an outbreak of mumps.<sup>3</sup> The main causes of death were chest infections, including tuberculosis, with 37 deaths in the 0-40 age group. The statutory requirement for the notification of certain infectious diseases came into being with the *Infectious Diseases (Notification) Act, 1899* which was compulsory in London but spread to the rest of England and Wales with the *Infectious Diseases (Extension) Act, 1899* when the head of the house or the attending doctor notified the Local Authority. Following notification, the Local Authority under the *Public Health Act, 1875* had the authority to: isolate patients, disinfect property, suspend schooling, and close businesses. After the *Education Act, 1870* any scholars who were suspected of spreading disease were to be excluded from school. Research had shown that one of the primary causes of cross infection was school attendance.<sup>4</sup>

Of these infections: polio was made notifiable from 1912, diphtheria from 1889, measles firstly, between 1915-1919, and then from 1940.

Table 5. Child Deaths by Season 1890-1949 in Chinnor.

		<b>Infants (0-1 year)</b>	<b>Child (1-12 years)</b>
Winter	Dec.-Feb.	16	7
Spring	March-May.	8	5
Summer	June-Aug.	10	11
Autumn	Sept.-Nov.	6	4

Source: Chinnor parish records and retrieved death certificates.

This chart indicates a winter peak for infants and a summer peak for children. Gastro enteritis was a common cause of death but not a notifiable disease until 1949 when it was recorded as food poisoning. During the period under review five children died of

<sup>3</sup> *National School Log Book*, July (1907).

<sup>4</sup> See Harris, *The Health of the School Child*, p. 37, for a contemporary example of the effectiveness of this see Letters, *BMJ*, 29 October, (1887), 964, regarding an outbreak of diphtheria.

enteritis.<sup>5</sup> As stated at the beginning of this chapter, one measure of the health of a society is its infant mortality rate. During the period 1900-1956, the number of babies dying before the age of 1 year as determined from the burial records, death certificates, and other sources was 24. Of these 7 died of prematurity, two had congenital heart defects, nine died of infection, two had a congenital malformity and four were 'under developed', 'sickly' or 'malnourished.'

Recording of burials.

### **Analysis of deaths by decades**

**In the early 1600s it would appear that there were less than 10 burials a year the highest in one year being 16 and the lowest in 1630 3. 1641 and 1654, no burials recorded.**

#### **1622-1632**

In this segment the total number of burials recorded was: 85, m 43, f 42, and the average number of deaths per year was < 12. An exception was 1625 when 16 burials were recorded and 14 in 1628, the lowest number was 3 in 1630. As far as can be determined from cross reference to the baptism records which may not have been complete, the number of deaths < 1 year of age was 16.

Entries are annotated s or d but without ages it is unclear if these refer to infants, children or unmarried adults. See for example 1804 Mary Swains, age 16 d. Christopher. Some families were indicated by locations ie John of Chinnor.

In 1626, a vagrant was buried and in November 1627, it would appear that Elizabeth Britnell, wife of Bennett, and their son John, died within a few days of each other, which could suggest a death in childbirth although there is no record of John's baptism in the register.

In 1628 the Rector, Richard Winlow, died.

In 1631 is the latest record of the Cooke family which also used the alias Johnson. The first being in 1605 as Cooke alias Journson of Oakley. Also 1622 Jacob Cooke alias Johnson Edmund Cooke alias Johnson, and 1640, Anna w. Edward Cooke alias Johnson, and in 1688 Pricilla Johnson alias Cooke w. James, see also August 1644 Cooke/Johnson.

**1642 saw the start of the civil war, and in June 1643, the Battle of Chalgrove and 17 June, Royalist raid on Chinnor<sup>6</sup>**

#### **1633-1643**

During this period the number of burials was: total 64, m 29, f 35, average < 10 deaths per year with 1639, recording 12. The page for 1637 is blank and in 1638

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<sup>5</sup> Chinnor Parish Burial records and retrieved death certificates.

<sup>6</sup> See index to Bodleian Library and Chinnor Public Library.

only three burials were recorded. The number of deaths under 1yr is estimated to be 11

**Stevens.** During this period the Stevens family suffered a number of bereavements. John Stevens s. William (actually January 1633), and Elisabeth Stevens d. William buried in January, 1633.

In January, 1634 (35) Dorothy Stevens d of William.

In March 1634, Joanna Stevens of Chinnor.

In 1643 there was an outbreak of infection in Thame having been brought from the siege of Reading by the Parliamentary army. According to historical reference this was of an epidemic of a New Disease which has not been identified but Bell suggests it could have been mixture of conditions common to armies such as camp fever, dysentery, typhus or typhoid. Chinnor was put into lockdown with no contact with Thame after July, but the Stevens family of Chinnor High Street broke the ban.

Ref John Bell Chinnor archives.

In August 1643, Richard Stevens died and in September, John Stevens, Clement Stevens and Jeffery, s. of Clement, all died on and in Jan 1643 (44), Margaret Stevens d of Clement died..

Edward Sewel (Seywell) of Hill Farm buried June 2, burned to death trying to rescue farm deeds and papers. Ref John Bell on the civil war. Chinnor archives.

Although it was recorded that 50 roundhead soldiers were killed in the raid there is no record of their burial in the parish records. However, it would seem that they were not buried in the churchyard but just outside the churchyard wall and it may have been these soldiers who were found when the churchyard was extended in 1927 when skeletons and military accoutrements were dug up. Hill Chinnor Archives.

In September, 1644, Elizabeth Stevens d. of Clement died.

Also, in January 1643, John Basely s. of John and Anna d. of John were buried on the same day (not recorded in baptism register).

### **1649 beginning of the Commonwealth 1651 end of the civil war.**

#### **1644-1654 1654 smallpox out break in Oxford**

During this period a total of 71 burials took place: m 33, f 38, 2 were not named. Average number of burials per year was < 10 with a spike in 1647 of 14. The number of deaths under 1 year was 6.

Stevens family see above.

1645 and 1654 there is no record of any burials

August 13<sup>th</sup> 1644 one entry partly deleted shows Cooke blank s/d blank Cooke of Chinnor and immediately underneath Johnson, Katherine d. James of Chinnor. See previous entry 1631.

January 1 1647(48), Prudence King, d. Richard Baptised 24.12 46 buried January 1, and his wife (not named) buried January 3, died within two days of each by cross checking with the baptism records this might possibly be a death in childbirth.

In 1648 five women were buried without noting their Christian names: Avery, wife of John, Connys wife of Robert and two whose husbands' name is not recorded, (Marsh and Medes), and one son, surname Deane with no indication of family relationships.

1649 outbreak of smallpox in Oxford

1651 Two residents named Goodchild, Isabella a widow and Prudence d. of William died within a week of each other, it is not clear if they lived in the same household.

1651(52) March 24. Edward King s. of Laurence one of twins, brother Laurence appears to have survived.

1644, One unusual entry, Robert s. of Batty, Alien ie stranger to the village.

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1<sup>st</sup> May 1655

William Goldfinch was elected as Chinnor's Scrivener and Register for Chinnor and continued to keep parish records during the Commonwealth handing over to the returned Rector after the Restoration. See CHAS occasional paper 7 *Seventeen century trade tokens* library holdings 942.579.

'William Goldfinch being Chosen and elected Register by the Inhabitants of Chynner for their parish dis come before Walter Ellwood, Esq., one of the Justices of the peace for the county of Oxon and did take his oath faithfully to execute the said office of Register for the keeping of the Register books of the said parish and therein to enter fairely in writing all such publications, marriages, births of children and burials of all sorts of persons, and the names of every of them and the days of the month and years of publications, marriages, births and burials, as shall happen to be within the said parish during the tyme that he shall continue in the said office of a Register, for Confirmation of the election abovesaid I have hereunto subscribed my name the first days of May in the yeare of our Lord one thousand sixe hundred ffifty and ffive.'

(Signed) W. Ellwood

**1655-1665**

**1657-9, *influenza epidemic***

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CHINNOR (OXON) BAPTISMS

1654 cont'd

Apr 27	Christopher Rolph	filius	Johannis
May 25	Nathaniel Shewel		
May 17	Daniel Goldfinch	filius	Gulielmi
June 7	Maria Dutton	filia	Edouardi
8	Margeria Allan	filia	Henrici bap,
16	Thoma Filius	filius	Christopheri Kinge de Chynner, natus erat.

1655

Apr 25 Johannes Witney filius Laurentij Witney bapt. (This baptism is recorded among the 1654 baptisms) x

ON NEXT PAGE OF REGISTER IS RECORDED :-

" William Goldfinch beinge Chosen and elected Register by the Inhabitants of Chynner for their parish did come before me Walter Ellwood, Esq., one of the Justices of the peace for the county of Oxon and did take his oath faithfully to execute the said office of a Register for the keepinge of the Register booke of the said parish and therein to enter fairely in writing all such publications, marriages, births of children and burials of all sorts of persons, and the names of every of them and the dayes of the month and yeare of publications, marriages, births and burials, as shall happen to be within the said parish during the tyme that he shall continue in the said office of a Register, for Confirmation of the election abovesaid I have hereunto subscribed my name the first daye of May in the yeare of our Lord one thousand sixe hundred ffifty and ffive."

(Signed) W. Ellwood

(Next Page) BIRTHS OF CHILDREN 1655

1655 cont'd BIRTHS

May 1	Sara Thorne	d	of	Ambrosse Thorne was borne the first day of Maye in the yeare of our Lord 1655
11	Elizabeth Meade	d	of	Thomas Meade of Chynner
6	George Deane	sonne	of	John Deane of Chynner
19	Jonathan Beckley	s	of	Thomas Beckley of Chynner
June 14	James Stevens	s	of	Stephen Stevens
23	George Monday	s	of	George Monday
Aug 4	John Rolph	s	of	Christopher Rolph
18	Timothy Bastian	s	of	William Bastian
21	William Sharpe	s	of	John Sharpe
Sept 11	Richard Allen	s	of	Robert Allen

The total number of burials in this section was: 122, m 54, f 63, 1 adult not named. And the average per year varying widely between 1658, 24 and 1651, 4. Deaths < 1 year 19. Re check

1655, September 25, Abigail w. of John Shell and October 14, Abigail d. of John Shell baptised 17. 9 one of twins, died within three weeks of each other. The mother dying first, again, a possible death in childbirth. The other twin, Anne, appears to have survived.

1656 (57). In March, twin daughters of Henry Stevens were buried, names not recorded in either register, one day post baptism.

1657 In August and June respectively, Richard and Christopher Goodchild died their relationship is not clear.

1658 Among the 24 burials this year were a number of families who suffered multiple deaths. Of particular note is when in September, Susanna, w. of Samuel Gibson, Rector died and 6 weeks later, in October, the Rector also died.

In addition to the residents a vagrant woman, un named, was buried and John Meade, identified as 'the blind man', was also buried.

In the baptism register 1658(9) is the entry beside Christopher Brookes, a daughter, gemini, baptised march 4<sup>th</sup>. referring to twins, it is possible that another baby was stillborn so not baptised, in addition, he lost two daughters, in 1658/9. Joan, baptised 25.8 57 and Alice baptised 24.1.55(56) 6 weeks apart in Dec/Jan. 1658/9.

1659 Thomas Surman lost his wife and daughter in June which, again, might be a death in childbirth. In February Ambrose Stevens lost his wife and new son within 10 days, no name was recorded on either baptism or burial register. An Ann Stevens is also recorded in November but their relationship is not clear. Possibly living in the same household.

### ***1661-4 influenza epidemic***

1662 in January there is an entry for Henry Allen who was baptised and buried the next day. No notification in burial records

1662 Another instance of Johnson alias Cooke. This was Thomas senior in July.

In September 1662, Robert Howlett lost another daughter, Janna, having lost one, Ann, in July 1660 neither recorded in the baptism register.

1663 Thomas Surman lost 2 sons, Thomas and Henry although it is not clear if these were twins but they were baptised on the same day, 4 December, and buried on the same day 9 December.

**1665-1666 bubonic plague According to the burial records there does not seem to be any marked increase in burials during the plague year.**

**1665 total burials 11, 4m, 7f, and one baby less than 1 year old.**

**1666-1676**

**1675 influenza epidemic**

The total number of burials during this period was: total 118, m 51, f 66,



16 < 1 year

Average < 12 the highest number being in 1674 with 19 burials, and the lowest, 1666 with 6 recorded.

**Avery.** September, 1665, Elisabeth d. Christopher, baptised January 1660.  
December, Elizabeth widow,

February, (66), Janna d. of Christopher, baptised September 64..

May 1672 one unusual entry is of John Bigge 'of the mountains.'

**Gomm.** In 1674 3 members of the Gomm family died in February, Henry Gomm senior, Henry Gomm junior and Anna w. of Henry. Anna and Henry j were buried on the same day, Henry S. 10 days later.

**Stevens.** 1674, William Stevens s. Ambrose, baptised 1 February 1674, buried May 14, and in August, Ambrose Stevens.

### **1675 *influenza epidemic***

1675

**Young** 27 1675(76) January, Maria w. John Young, February 15, Katherina d. John.

1676 (77)

**Stacie.** Feb. Sarah w. William Stacie and 8 days later, William Stacie s. of Edward. ? husband and wife died in the same week.

### **1677-1687**

Burials during this section, total: 125, m 60, f 64, 27 < 1 year

The average being < 14 with two peaks of 20 in 1684, and 16 in 1685.

1677 Francis son of a vagrant

**Sharpe.** Over the next few years Thomas Sharpe lost his son Edward, baptised 23 February, 1676(7) buried, May 1677, daughter Anna in Aug. 1678, baptised June 1678, and son Richard in February, 1679 (80), baptised 5 Nov 1679.

### **1678-9 influenza epidemic**

In 1678 it was recorded that Thomas Surman senior was buried in 'woollen cloth'.

This would be to comply with an Act of Parliament 1678 which aimed at lessening the importation of linen from beyond the seas and the encouragement of the woollen and paper manufacture of the kingdom. The Act required that when a corpse was buried it should only be dressed in a shroud or garments made of wool. The exception being those that died of plague.

December 1681 Charles Goldfinch died age 32 and August 10, 1682 his son Charles was born and baptised on the same day May 11. Also recorded in May 1681, William Goldfinch s. Charles was baptised

**Costard.** July, 1681, Christopher Costard s. Timothy baptised in May buried in July.

1682 Christopher Costard s. Timothy in July, tentative proposal that this was a replacement baby.

July 1682, John Costard s. Richard, baptised 20 April buried 25 July.

Jan 1683 Christopher Costard s. Timothy baptised July 1682 buried January 1683 (4).

Another example of an alias in the burial records, Maria Goldfinch alias Ewster wife, of William Ewster.

### ***1688 influenza epidemic***

See 1688, July, Richard Costard s. Timothy and Richard Costard senior.

September 1682, Clement Surman and in Oct., Elizabeth, d. Clement.

1683 There were 14 deaths, 2 from 1 family, and 4 from another family.

**Hearne.** Wife of Thomas Hearne senior and Francis Hearne son of Thomas of Oakley within one week in April, no name for the wife and no specific designation for Francis but a Francis Hearne, s. Thomas of Oakely, was baptised in April, 1682

Dec. Maria d. John and Feb. Sarah w. John.

**Seywell:** Lettice d. and Edmund s. Edward, Nathaniel and Simon ss. of John Seywell all buried in July. In 1684 Maria d. Edward buried in January.

**Stacie** Two members of the Stacie family were buried. In July, Maria d. Edward and in Dec. Daniel s. Edward. See 1676 Feb. William Stacie s. Edward.

### **1693 *influenza epidemic***

#### **1688-1698**

Total number of burials during this period was: 136, m 69, f 67

Average < 12 with 30 deaths in 1688, and 16 in 1698. 24 < 1 year

**Costard.** Richard s. Timothy Costard see previous entry.

Thomas Johnson alias Cooke.

1688, Enoch and Rebecca s and d. of Richard Whitney baptised December 14, buried December 1688.

1690 June, Susanna w. Edward Stacie, Aug. Elizabeth d. Thomas Davis vagrant.

1692 Sarah Davis d. Thomas Davis vagrant, William Ward s. Henry Ward vagrant  
1691, February, Richard Munger a vagrant.

#### **Jay**

1690, January, Maria Jay w. of the Rector Stephen Jay.

1692, March, Nelson Jay s. Charles Jay Rector, baptised July 28, 1692.

1695 February, Winifred Jay d. Charles Jay Rector, Baptised May 21, 1695

1697 April, Charles Jay s. Charles Jay Rector, baptised July 2 1696.

1698 17 deaths July, Charles Jay, Rector.

1695 Jana Bastian, d. Henry baptised after death, 26 October, not noted in the burial records

1697 Sarah Smith alias Beadan daughter of Richard baptised

1698 Anna Gomm d. William of Henton, baptised March 3, after death, not noted in burials records

### **During the eighteenth century there were repeated outbreaks of typhus in Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire**

#### **1699-1709**

The total number of burials was: 137, m 64, f 73, with an average of 15 deaths per year. The largest in 1699 and 1700 with 17 and the least in 1705 with 8 and 35<1 year

1699 June Abigail Johnson alias Cooke

December, 1 Smith, John and Ann s. and d. of John Smith baptised November 26 1699

1700, 17 deaths a number of the same names appear this year but their relationship is not clear.

**Bigg.** Thos Bigg of London, in June, Ruth Bigg baptised March 14 d. Christopher July, 6 th Stephen Bigg of Chinnor August.

**Avery.** In September, Anna w. Christopher Avery, and on November 4, Christopher Avery 34 days apart.

**Chapman.** Three Chapmans are recorded as being buried within one month although their relationship is not clear: on November 19, John Chapman, four days later, on 23, Elizabeth, w. of George, December, 22 days later, 14 December, Anna, a widow.

1701, 16 deaths.

**Stevens** Isaac Stevens s. of Isaac baptised 3 July buried 13 July,

Edmund Stevens, baptised 16 November, buried 16 February 1702, s. Edmund.

May 1702, Edmund Stevens, 1703, Edward Stevens senior, in April.

Jana Stevens baptised May 28 buried May 30, d. Isaac,

Elizabeth d. Edmund in September 1703. 1704 Jana d. Isaac baptised 11 November, Buried December 2. ? another baby.

**Smith** 1702, March, John Smith baptised 4 March, buried March 27. s. John. 1703 Anna d. John, 1708, Anna baptised 15 December 1706 buried 20 April 1708, d. John.

1709, Jana baptised 27 June 1708 buried 17 May 1709, d. John, 1710, Lettice baptised 7 August 1709 buried 14 May 1710. d. John.

1706 John Costard vagrant.

**Chapman.** A number of Chapmans were buried in 1706. In June, John baptised 27 May 1705, buried 6 January 1706, s. Edward.

26 July, 1706 George Chapman.

November, Anna baptised 15 September 1706, buried 4 November 1706, d. Christopher, and in December 30 1706, Peter Chapman.

1709 **Brookes** March, Anna baptised 2 February 1708 d. Anna d. John of Henton.

In August, Anna baptised 5 August 1709, buried 8 August 1709, d. Christopher of Henton. See below.

### **1710-1720**

Totals for this period are: 136, m 69, f 77, with a spike in 1714 of 22, and the lowest number in 1712 of 6.. 27 < 1 year

1710 **Brookes** In Aug. John, baptised 12 August 1710 buried 16 August 1710 s. Christopher junior, of Henton.

1711 Christopher, baptised 10 November 1711, buried 29 January 1711 (12) s. Christopher junior, of Henton.

**Stephens** 1711, Lettice baptised 23 February 1710 buried 9 April 1711, d. Robert and July, John, s. Robert.

1715 16 May, Lettice w. Robert,

January, Anna w. Edward, and in march, Anna, baptised 14 February 1715, buried 8 March 1715 (16). d. Edward.

**Seywell** 1713 22 May, Anna w. Nathaniel of Thame

December, 1714, John, s. Nathaniel of Thame. 1714, March, Elizabeth, d. Nathaniel of Thame.

1718 December, Nathaniel s. Nathaniel and January 1718, Nathaniel of Thame.

16 January, 1711, (1712) abandoned infant baptised John and 18 September, 1713 was buried, there are no records of his carers or who paid for him during his 18 months lifetime.

**Gomme.** In May, 1714

Anna baptised 26 February 1712 (13) buried 6 May 1714. d. of Stephen of Henton, and in February William, baptised 13 July 1714, buried 5 February 1714 (15), s. Stephen

1716 August, Stephen and Richard ss. baptised 2 August 1716 buried 11 August 1716 Stephen of Henton.

In 18 June, Maria Alice w. Edward and in January. Sara Alice baptised 10 June 1716 buried 23 January 1716 (17) d. Edward.

### 1721-1731

#### 1722-3 outbreak of smallpox

The total number of burials recorded during this period were total: 163 m 79, f 80,. The highest number was in 1727 with 22 burials. 42 < 1 year.

In October 2 1721 Elizabeth Seymour w. Zachary and John s. Zachary 8 October, both died within six days of each other. See 1727 and 1732.

1724 20 deaths 1 *abandoned infant no name or gender given..*

1725 In November, Ann Bowers, baptised 17 November buried 23 November, d. Edward and Elizabeth, buried 30 11 1725, w. Edward died within week of each other ? death in childbirth.

Also in 1725 Edward, baptised 7 August buried 10 August s. Robert Stevens and Susanna, baptised 19 September, buried 24 September d. George, Stevens. Relationship not indicated in the records.

1726 In November, Eleanora buried 6 November w. William Cox and William buried 15 November died ten days apart.

William Costard s. Thomas see 1724 with no ages recorded it is impossible to say whether this was another infant ie replacement baby or an older child

1727 In July, Daniel Seymour baptised 2 July 1727 buried 29 July s. Zachary.

On 9<sup>th</sup> October, Elizabeth Bigg w. Christopher, 28<sup>th</sup> October, Christopher Bigg, November 30<sup>th</sup>.

### 1732-1742

The total number of burials during this section were: 168, m 74, f 94, the highest number in 1732 was 31, the lowest in 1738 with 6 recorded. 33 <1 year

1731 (32) On March ist William Shrimpton bapyised 18 February 1731 (32) s. John, April 1732, John s. John Shrimpton, buried 11 April 1732.

1732 In April, John Spindler, ? baptised January 1726, (27) s. Francis, buried 27 April 1732, and Anna, baptised 27 October 1729 buried 15 May 1732, d. Francis, died with three weeks of each other.

Shrympton and Munday, Thomas spurious s. of Thomas Shrympton and Elizabeth Munday.

**Dimmock** baptised 21 April 1728, buried 14 April 1732, Anna, d. Thomas, September, Anna w. Thomas.

October, John baptised 6 September 1732, buried 16 October 1732, s. Thomas . William Seymour s. Zachary.

**Smith**, 18 November, 1732 Anna baptised 14 April, d. William.

18 January, 1732 (33) William s. William.

1735 In August, Bryden, Johanna w. Thomas, the following March Thomas Bryden.

John King s. Thomas of Holcomb

1736 Elizabeth Holt, baptised 16 April buried 22 April, d. of Thomas, 29<sup>th</sup> April Jana w. Thomas.

January, Hanna King d. Thomas of Holcomb, Elizabeth King d. Thomas not clear if they were related. Oct. 1737, Thomas King of Holcomb.

Munday In May Methusala Munday and in October Methusala and in December John Munday were buried. No indication of their relationship is recorded

1737, Shrympton, Samuel s of Thomas and Rebecca d. Thomas. No indication of their ages on record. Baptised 30 January 1737 (38) and buried in 4 January 1737 (38). ?

Maria Losely baptised 24 March with her twin brother Joseph, Maria buried 20 May 1736.

1751-9 Rectors returns 159 families in Chinnor, Henton

### **1740-2 smallpox outbreak**

#### **1743-1753**

The total number of burials during this period was: 132, m 60, f 70 the highest number was in 24 in 1746 and the lowest in 1751 6. 28 < 1 year

1743 *influenza outbreak in Italy*

1744 Sara Pemberton illegitimate d. of Joh. Pemberton.

1746 Four members of the Slater family died between December and March. Anna w. Henry buried 13 December 1746, Augustin, buried 16 February 1746 (47) Susanna a widow buried 21 February 1746 (47) and Sara d. Henry baptised 13 December 1746 buried 11 March 1787.

1747 William Bromley illegitimate son of Mary baptised 26 May 1747 buried 23 June 1747.

1753 recording of baptisms was changed to January to December.

#### **1754-1764**

Total: 131, m 55, f 76, 1f infant the highest number being in 1764,16 and the lowest in 1751, 6 12 < 1 year.

1758 Elizabeth Cole w. Richard, and Betty, baptised 25 December 1758, d. Richard both buried on the same day, 7 January, 1758 (59).

6 February 1760 (61), William Bates, baptised 5 September 1759, s. Francis, and in June 1761, Hannah Bates, baptised 19 April 1761 buried 18 June, 1761 d. Francis.

Mary White d. Robert buried 2 March 1761 (62) and John White buried 21 March 1761 (62) s. Robert. 17 April 1762 Robert White.

1761 25 March, Francis Britnell and Sarah baptised 3 May 1762 buried 1 May 1762, d. Francis.

1763 28<sup>th</sup> April, James Folley s. James Jnr. and 7<sup>th</sup> May, John s. James. Jnr, 15 July, Mary w. James junior, Feb, 1763 (64) James Folly Jnr.

1764 June 22 Mary Cox, w. William, September 1, Jane Cox, d. William. Jane spurious daughter of Currier/Burnham, George and Alice.

#### **1765-1775                      1770 Rector's returns 174 families.**

Total: 170, m 63, f 107, 1775 19 lowest,1767 ,9, 15 < 1 year.

1766 in May, Elizabeth Folley d. Thomas was buried and Elizabeth d. Thomas was baptised June the 18<sup>th</sup>. 1766. 1768 three members of the Beckley family died. In 26 June, Thomas, in 5 July, Mary and Elizabeth, July 7 although no connections between them were recorded.

17<sup>th</sup> March 1768 (69) , Elizabeth Stevens w. John jun. and Daniel Stevens s. John Jun buried, 14 March 1768 (69).

1772 Mary Stevens w. John

1773 August, Mary Gomm d. Thomas,

June 1774 Sarah Gomm d. Thomas.

1774 Sarah Bloxam d. Richard buried 16. April 1774, and in 1775 Elizabeth, baptised 5 November 1775 d. Richard, buried 17 December 1775. A couple of entries indicted people who may have been in the same household. August 4 1775 Hannah Folly w. Francis and on 16 August, Thomas Folly s. Thomas were buried with a fortnight of each other. in November 15 another Folly, widow of Henry no name recorded. Also, James Cherington 20 August 1775 and widow Cherington on 3 September.

#### ***Influenza epidemic 1775-1782***

#### **1776-1786**

Total number of burials: 184, m 89, f 94, 19 < 1 year

The highest number of burials was 25 in 1776 and the lowest, in 1785, was 9.

1776 April 16, Elizabeth King baptised 18 February, d. Richard and in May 23, Elizabeth w. Richard was buried. April 6, Martha d. Joshua Smith was buried and in September 15, Hannah Smith d. Richard and five days later, 20 Elizabeth w. Richard was buried.

Six months later, 26 February 1776 (77) Sally, d. Thomas and Thomas s. Aaron Smith died, buried 15 March 1776 (77) . Richard Smith died December 1777.  
recheck

In November, Ann Folly d. Thomas died (see previous entry 1775).

1780 A travellers child, no name given, was buried in April.

1782 ***outbreak of influenza reached Oxford in May.***

'Act of Parliament took place 1<sup>st</sup>. October 1783 that 3d. should be paid for every person buried.' 3d was to be paid for every child baptised. This could prove very expensive for example: William Meade paid 3d. to bury his daughter Hannah in May 1784 and 3d. to baptise John on July 25<sup>th</sup> in 1784. In 1787 Thomas Stevens baptised his daughter Ann on January 21<sup>st</sup> 1787 and buried her on the 12<sup>th</sup> of February paying 3d. for each, Francis Bates baptised his son William in 15<sup>th</sup> April and buried him in September and Frances Bates in December. In February 1791 Edward and Elizabeth Eustace twins, were baptised at a cost of 6d. and buried in March at a cost of 6d. Three pence for each baptism and burial. Without the fathers' occupation it is difficult to evaluate the financial impact on the family however, gross observation of the occupations listed after 1813 it would seem that in the main villagers were of the labourer and artisan class. Annual wages per year in the 1700s agricultural labourers £12 - 13. per year, rising to £22 by 1800 with variations according to location and season. Approximately 5s and 7s 6d. a week and for comparison a 4lb loaf would cost 10d.

1786 on 2 February Ann Whitney, w. Thomas and, on 11 March, Ann d. Thomas (not in baptism register, were buried..

1796 inoculation against smallpox available. ~~~~~

### **1787-1797**

**From 1791 the date of birth was recorded as well as the date of baptism.**

During this period the total number of burials: 165, m 58, f 83, the highest number in 1792 was 22 and the lowest in 1790, 8. 32 < 1 year.

1787 on 12 February, Ann Stevens baptised 21 January 1787 d. Thomas.

On 19 May 1789, Martha, baptised 12 April, Stevens d. Thomas was buried. August, 2 1789 Ann d. Thomas Stevens baptised 8 June 1788 was buried.

September, 1 1787 William Bates s. Francis baptised April 15 1787 and in December, Frances Bates was buried.

**From 1790 the age of the deceased was entered in the burial records so allowing for infants and children to be identified with some accuracy. For this analysis an infant was deemed to be a baby less than 1 year of age and a child**



**less than 10 years. However, infants and children were often recorded without their family connection being noted.**

**1791-1794** a total of 21 paupers were buried, 14 female including 1 female infant, 8 males.

1791 total: 21, 14 m, 7 f., of which 8 were infants and 2 children

Of these Edward and Elizabeth Eustace baptised 27 February 1791 were infant twins and cost their parents Thomas and Kathleen, 6d. to be baptised in February and 6d to be buried March 4. In April, Katherine Eustace w. Thomas also died.

1793 September, 4 Mary Stevens 26, was buried in November Mary Stevens w. John of Oakley age 40 and in December, Marshal Stevens of Oakley age 8. In May 1794 James Stevens of Oakley age 23. William Stevens baptised 29 March 17 92 son of Mary and John of Oakley seems to have survived.

1794 first case recorded of smallpox Sarah Cox age 26 pauper

## **1798-1808**

### **1803 influenza epidemic**

During this period the total burials were: 143, m 58, f 85, of which the highest was 1802, with 30 burials of which 5 were the result of smallpox, and the lowest number of deaths was in 1805, 6, 46 < 1 year.

### **Stevens**

In 1798 Ann stevens, daughter of Edmund, died in July age 5 years.

1799 March Rebecca Stevens infant, baptised March 18<sup>th</sup> 1799 and buried March 22<sup>nd</sup>. Daughter of Edmund and Ann and in January 1800 Ann and Rebecca Stevens twins, baptised 1 January buried January 9<sup>th</sup>, again daughters of Edmund and Ann.

August Elizabeth Limmings 23 and in September Elizabeth Curryer Limmings, infant. No other information recorded.

1800 December 16<sup>th</sup> Benjamin Copeland Mr. age 41

In 1801, the death of Benjamin Copeland (1759-1800), described as an 'apothecary of Chinnor', was reported in the *Oxford Journal*. He had apparently died in December 1800 in straightened circumstances having contracted a fever whilst administering to the poor of the Parish. An appeal was launched for funds to support his family of six children, who had no mother and were now destitute, to prevent them going into the workhouse.<sup>7</sup> In the parish records Copeland is designated, Mr. a title which does not occur on any other records. No occupation was recorded beside Copeland's entry but this title suggests that he would have been a surgeon-apothecary, a fusion of the roles of all branches of medicine which was common in the country. A search of local records and newspapers did not yield any further records of an apothecary

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attending in Chinnor, only one advertisement for an apothecary in Thame who appeared to have treated some Chinnor residents successfully.<sup>8</sup>

To the Charitable and Humane: a case of real distress is humbly submitted' *Oxford Journal*, 30 January, (1801).

Enquiry at the Worshipful Society of Apothecaries failed to find his name listed in their register of practitioners. Evidence for the existence of six children was not discernible from the parish records. An examination of the parish records for Chinnor indicated that he married, by licence, Sophia Ramsbottom in March 1800 although there is no record of her burial. From 1788 there were a number of baptism records of children from his first marriage to his wife Sarah, two appear to have survived but three died in infancy. It is possible that his second wife died in childbirth as there was a record of a baptism in May 1801 of a Elizabeth Copeland, daughter of the late Benjamin and Sophia this baby died a few months later. There were no entries in the parish records under the name of Ramsbottom. 'Abstract of Administration of Benjamin Copeland of Chinnor, Oxfordshire. Proved in the Court of Oxford. 1801. National Archives, Kew, [Discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/details/r/D719588](https://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/details/r/D719588).

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### 1801 first census, population of Chinnor 862

1801 In September, 1 infant died of smallpox, George West son of John of Spriggs Alley and in October, Thomas West age 40 of Spriggs Alley cause of death not recorded. In May 1802, John West of Spriggs Alley aged 3 died it is not recorded whether he died of smallpox.

**Smallpox was the most widespread fatal disease during the eighteenth century. Spread person to person by droplet infection. First vaccination by Jenner in 1796 and the Vaccination Act was passed in 1861 which reduced the incidence but a further outbreak occurred in 1903 when 3 children from Crowell were excluded from school as they had been exposed to smallpox. Further families became infected leading to the closure of the school in Chinnor.**

1802

*5 cases of smallpox:*

Perkins/North Henry, s. Thomas and Lucy, infant'

Edmund Whitney of Oakley 55

Mary Keen 70

Sarah Stone 61

Hannah Folley, d. Edward 3.

1803 Robert Kerby 46 of Spriggs Alley accidentally killed.

1805 March, William Howlett, 45, killed by a fall from his horse.

1807 28 November, Elizabeth Meade, 42 w. John and in 13 December Nathanael age 5 s. John.

1807 Elizabeth Meade, 42 w. John and Nathanael Meade age 5 s. John buried with 14 days of each other. During this year four burials were recorded omitting the deceased's Christian name.

1808 On 13 June, Martha Marriott age 32, w. Joseph and Obidiah, 26 June, infant, s. Joseph were buried within a fortnight of each other.

In August Edward King of Sydenham, age 70, 'who in a fit of insanity, hung *sic*, himself on the windmill'

### **Population 875**

#### **1809-1819**

During this period the total number of burials was: 189 m 52, f 80, inf, m 17, f23, ch. 10 m. 7f. The highest numbers were in 1810, 1816, at 22, and the lowest in 1813, 7. 46 < 1 year

An illustration of the complexities of the records is demonstrated by two entries: 1810 on 4 February, Fanny Whitbread age 34, w. James, and in 7 March Mary Whitbread, infant, were buried. Another record of a Whitbread is a baptism in 6 August 1809 Marianne, d. of Frances and James Whitbread.

On 10 June, Thomas Holt, infant, died, not in baptism records and no family affiliation recorded and in July, John Holt, s. of Edward and Susan, age 7 died.

In November, 1810 Anne Mann age 18 was referred to as the 'natural' d. of Elizabeth.

1811 William Johnson infant alias Prater see other entries re Johnson and aliases.

1811/1812 December 1811, Clara Hester, infant not in baptism record, no family linkage, and November 29 1812 Thomas Hester baptism 10 November infant s. William and Jane.

August 2, 1812, William Eustace illegitimate s. Anna, infant, baptised 28 March and in October, Eliza Monger baptised 1 March, infant, illegitimate d. Mary Hearne.

**From 1813 the fathers occupation was included in the baptism records.**

**1814-1821 ? no rector, stand in clergy from Aston and Bledlow. 1817 Musgrove recorded as rector.**

November, 1814, Edwin and Emma Webster buried 20 November, infants s and d. William and Mary, b. 16<sup>th</sup> November.

October 1815, Susanna Buckland a traveling gypsy age 62.

#### **1817-24, cholera outbreak, 1817-18, typhus**

1817 In May, Thomas Cox age 5 and John Cox age 2 buried on the same day..

In January, John Stevens of Oakley age 87 and in May, Mary Stevens of Oakley died age 80.

At the end of August 1817 the date of death was included in the records as well as the date of burial.

1817/1818, August James Little age 31 was buried and in 1818, James Little ( s. of John and Elizabeth baptised July 1815) age 2. in May and Rebecca Little age 16 was buried in November. Their relationship to each other is not recorded.

## 1820-1830

### **1826-7 typhus outbreak**

Total burials in this period: 223 m 73, f 80, 54 < 1 year.

In December 1820, Richard Bloxam age 70 'died in a fit of apoplexy in his return from Wycombe Market.' Sic.

1821 Thomas and John Webster baptised 19 August, infant twins were buried October, ss of William and Mary.

1822, Thomas Hepburn age 78 'died suddenly when at Wycombe Market'.

In December Hanna Britnell, infant, died on the 11<sup>th</sup> December and Sarah Britnell, infant, died on the 19<sup>th</sup> December. Neither mentioned in the baptism register.

### **Population 1,097**

1824 Edmund Whitney, infant, not on the baptism register died on the 9<sup>th</sup> October and James Whitney age 7 died on the 17<sup>th</sup> October. Born March 1816 he could be the son of Thomas and Jane.

1825 William Whitney, infant, baptised 2 March died 13<sup>th</sup> March s. Thomas and Jane 1925/26

John Cooper s. John and Sarah (Wood) age 6 of Oakley died on December 13<sup>th</sup>. And on January, 24<sup>th</sup>, 1826 Sarah Cooper age 4 of Oakley died, not on baptism register,

On January 26<sup>th</sup> 1826, Samuel Cooper, baptised November 25, 1825 infant, s. of John and Sarah of Oakley died.

In 1826 two more young members of the Britnell family died, on the 16<sup>th</sup> February, Thomas Britnell, infant not in baptism register and June 14<sup>th</sup> Sarah age 3 d. Benjamin and Martha baptised 3 April 1843.

1828 Amelia, 10 months, d. John and Sarah and Ellen, d. John and Sarah infant, Stevens died a month apart in June and July.

1830 A number of deaths were recorded from Henton suggesting some infectious outbreak. In February 9<sup>th</sup> Mary Rogers age 77 and in March 14<sup>th</sup> Ann Rogers age 15 died. June 7<sup>th</sup> Thomas Rogers age 11, June 8<sup>th</sup>, Rachel Rogers age 41, June 10<sup>th</sup>, Rachel Rogers age 15. Fourteenth of June

Name	age	d o d	location
Mary rogers	77	9/2	Henton

Anne Rogers	15	14/3	Henton
Thomas Rogers	11	8/6	
Rachel Rogers	41	10/6	
Rachel Rogers	15	14/6	

March 31<sup>st</sup> John Cadle age 29, May 23<sup>rd</sup> Martha Cadle age 19 from Henton.

February 21<sup>st</sup>, Hannah Folley age 94.

### Population 1,225

#### ***1831, influenza epidemic, 1831-2, cholera epidemic in UK, 1833 influenza epidemic***

**1831-1841** check pestilence and fever

Total number of deaths for this period: 237, m68 f 85, inf. m 16, f 12 cld. M30 f 26 the highest number in 1837 and 1840 of 26, the lowest 1839, 14. 41 < 1 year

1831 Three members of the Whitney family died in less than a month, Mary Whitney age 78, Elizabeth Whitney age 40 and Leah age 27.

Three young women from Winnal (Wainhill) died over a three year period. November 1832 Rachel Rogers age 27, March 1833, Sarah age 13 and in February 1834, Mary age 24.

**1837 beginning of national registration of birth marriages and deaths.**

***1837 influenza epidemic, outbreak of smallpox 1837-40 in England, in 1839 the Registrar General noted that TB accounted for 7.6% of all deaths.***

In 1837 two families in Oakley suffered multiple bereavements. In February John White age 13, Elizabeth White in March age 45, in April Lydia White d. George and Elizabeth of Oakley age 17, and in November, Eden (?Heden) White age 7 s. George and Elizabeth, all from Oakley.

The King family lost an infant Elizabeth born in October 1836 buried in May 1837 d. John and Susanna from Oakley but also in March, Rachel, age 5, and Jane age 3, buried in May but not recorded as being from Oakley. December, 1838, William King, infant from Oakley baptised 11 December s. John and Susanna.

In December 1839, Benjamin Hester age 4 of Oakley died on the 13<sup>th</sup> December and James Hester age 2 baptised 17 June 1838 died on the 20 December 1839 ss Henry and Mary.

In 1840, In May, William Witney, of Oakley age 34, Ellen (Eleanor?) Witney 7 months, d. John and Sara and in June, Charlotte Witney age 6 d George and Lucy died within a month of each other. Other deaths in Oakley that year included: in June

William Stevens age 1 year s John and Maria and Arabella and Caroline Hatton, twin infants in December d Benjamin and Rebecca.

January 10, 1841, James Witney, infant, died, Eden Witney age 3 of Oakley.

On February 4th, Sarah Rogers age 36 and on February 23<sup>rd</sup> Eli Rogers age 32. No family links recorded.

**1842-1852                      1841 pop. 1,308.**

During this period the burial total 254, m. 68, f.109, inf. M 18 f, 16 chd, m.18, f.25, the highest number of deaths was in 1847 with 37 and the lowest 1850 with 7. 43 < 1 year.

In 1842 The Britnall family suffered loss in March Alfred age 14, s. Benjamin and Martha. In May, John age 18 months, not in baptism register parents not recorded, also in May, Susannah age 2 years nine months d. Lancelot and Caroline and buried and on the same day in May, Caroline d. Lancelot and Caroline age 1 year and 3 months.

Also that year Henry Hildon 'of riper years' was baptised.

In 1844 six residents from the Union Workhouse were buried in Chinnor,

In January:

John Smith age 85

Jane Perkins age 63

Edmund Smith age 26

In April

Jane Ratley age 3 months not on baptism register

Mary Smith age 73

October

William Cox infant not in baptism register

In October William Way age 54 was 'killed in the Thame road over ridden by an horseman'. sic.

1845

December 29 1844 Mary King infant d. Susannah and John died and in September 1845 William King infant s. William and Ann. Also in December, Edward Buckland age 90 from the Union Workhouse was buried.

1846 two from the Union Workhouse were buried: Mary Seymour, infant, in January not on baptism register and William Willis, age 88, in May.

***1847-8 influenza pandemic the flu death rate was 459 per million.***

1847, 37 burials, flu death rate, 459 per million

In February 1847 two children from the Union Workhouse died one day apart, Thomas white age 7, and Henry White, an infant both buried on the same day.

In February, another member of the White family, William s. James and Maria, an infant,

baptised 27 September 1846 died in march.

Additional deaths in the Union Workhouse:

December, John Loder age 4. ? s John and Susanna.

In October, 1848, James White age 3 months, s. Solomon and Charlotte in November, Thomas White age 3, s. Haden and Sarah and Rebecca White an infant from the Union Workhouse.

Additional deaths from the Union Workhouse 1848:

James East age 3 years 9 months not in baptism records

Sarah Hayes age 1 year 9 months “ “

Sarah Loveday age 80

George Sulston, 11 months 17 June 1848

Jane Folly age 51.

On the 22 March Thomas and Rebecca Whitney had three children baptised: Elizabeth b. June 1842, George b. August 44 and Sarah b. November 47

### ***1849 cholera outbreak UK.***

1849 two deaths from the Union Workhouse, William Bates age 86, John King, 83.

1851 **pop 1,257. First peak of Influenza outbreak**

In February Sophia White from Spriggs Alley age 33 and in March, Eliza White Spriggs Alley age 13. In July, Elizabeth Marriott age 26 and 9 days later Angelina Marriott d. Elizabeth noted in baptism records as deceased, and John, infant died. In September 30<sup>th</sup> Thomas Folly age 24 and October 7<sup>th</sup> Sarah Folley age 26 were buried. The name is spelt differently but could be the same family both from Oakley.

January 23 1851 Augustus Howlett age 24, in August his widow Elizabeth gave birth to Augusta ? Edward recorded as posthumous child, son, of Elizabeth.

**1853-1863**

**1854 out break of typhoid, 1855 second peak of influenza outbreak**

From 1852-54 no dates of birth were recorded

The total number of burials during this section total: 258 m 76, f 97, inf. M. 14, f. 12, chd m26, f. 22, highest number 1855, 38 and the lowest, 14 in 1862. 34 < 1 year.

5 th February 1853 Elizabeth Newell age 1 year and, 12 February, Clara, age 9 weeks both daughters of William and Charlotte and both baptised on the same day, second January 1853.

Two deaths from the Union Workhouse, James Barnes age 60, James Perkins 62.

In December, John Keen age 3 and Thomas Keen age 9 there were no family links recorded. No record in the baptism register.

1855 in spite of the high death rate, 38 in total, there were no clear clusters of deaths, In July John Witney 7 months, s. Mary Ann of Oakley, Mary Witney infant, not in baptism records and in October, George Witney age 36.

Starting in 1855 there was a sudden increase in multiple baptism within the same family for example, the Rush family had four children baptised: James b 1846, Mary Ann b.1848, Thomas b. 1851, Jesse b. 1854 all s. and d. William and Ann of Oakley.

Three sons of Thomas and Jane Southam born William 1850 Thomas 1852 and John 1854 were all baptised together in March 1855.

In October 1855 three members of the Rogers family: James Joseph and Eliza born 43, 45, 50 respectively.

The incidence of multiple baptisms increased during 1857 and early 1858. Whether this was due to the threat of infections is not clear.

Examples in 1857 include: the Currier family 2, s and d. of John and Mary Ann, in February 1857 William and Maria Seymour baptised their daughter Leah born 1841 and later in May baptised three more of their children, James born 1847, Alice Maria born 1850 and Rebecca 1853. In June two more of William and Maria's children were baptised: William b. 1838 and John born 1844. Also in May, three children of James and Mary Bunce: Ann b. 1842, Rebecca b. 1847 and Ellen b. 1844.

.1856 In January, Ann White age 28 and Elizabeth White age 44 were buried and another Ann White age 61 was buried in April. Family links are not recorded. In August Elizabeth Eustace age 33 of Oakley and Charles Eustace s. James and Elizabeth, age 9 of Oakley were buried. Nov/Dec Emily Curryer age 4 d. John and Mary and Mary Curryer d. William and Ann, age 1 year and 11 months.

Mary Ann Witney age 3 baptised November 1856 'since dead'.

**1857-9 influenza epidemic, 1856-9 diphtheria outbreak, infection recorded in Thame.**



1857 During this year a number of members of the White family were buried. In January, Sarah age 58 and Esther age 88, in April Robert age 5 s. James and Maria.

In October Emma Hill age 7 months and in December, George age 25.

1858 The 10 burials recorded in January were all infants or children. Two were from Winnall, Ellen East age 2<sup>1/2</sup> and Sarah age 9 months d. George and Ellen. The oldest was James Eustace age 7 from Henton s. Frederick and Hester Baptised 4 January and noted as 'since dead'. from Hempton. The youngest was Frederic Currier age 6 weeks s. George and Alice, annotated 'since dead' Louisa Rogers 5 months d. James and Louisa. Charles Britnell 1 year 11 months, s. Jesse and Alice.

Recovered death certificates indicate that all these children died of whooping cough.

During 1858 the practise of multiple baptism continued and expanded. Branches of the Rogers family were prominent during this year. In January, Louisa Rogers d. James and Louisa baptised (see above) on 24th February, Sarah b. 1838 and John b. 1840 s and d, Joseph and Sarah John Sarah Anna and William born 45, 47, 53, 57 s and d. Thomas and Jana were all baptised. Also a George Immanuel born 55 s. Sarah father unknown. In April Sarah Anne d. James and Rebecca

### **1860-65 smallpox epidemic**

1860 Two members of the Stevens family from Oakley in August James age 2 and October Isabell age 24. No family linkage was recorded.

1861 population 1,296

In April, James age 6, and Sarah Eustace, age 3<sup>1/2</sup> both baptised the same day 27 June 1858, s. James and Jane were buried 11 days apart, and a Eustace from Oakley, James age 3 years 10 months was buried in September. In November another alias was recorded Georgina Green alias Witney age 2 years and 9 months.

1863 This year saw the deaths of two residents of the Littlemore Lunatic Asylum, in May John Fletcher age 71 and in Joseph Bishop age 22. On the second of March Elizabeth Green age 82 'burnt to death'.

### **1864-1874**

#### **1866 cholera outbreak.**

During this period the total number of burials was: 224, m81, f 81, inf m 13, f. 33 < 1 year

Stevens family from Oakley August 1864, Stephen age 7 months s. William and Rebecca, and eleven months later Elizabeth Stevens 5 months and in October, 1865 Harry Stevens age 9 months also twin s. Harry and Eliza d. of William and Rebecca noted as both 'since dead' but not in burial records.

1867 James Green age 30 died in the Littlemore Lunatic asylum

### 1870-75 smallpox

1871 population 1,339

1871 31 deaths

In February Francis Britnell died age 91.

1873 was notable in that six adolescents died in one year. Normally one was recorded or at the most two. These adolescents were: Mary Folley age 11 died of 'fits' in February, Eva Hopkins, 15, June, decline, Fred Buttenshaw 15, June, no death certificate available, Louisa Stockwell, 14, August, gastric fever, Maria Brazell, 18, November, Phthisis (TB) Hannah Rogers, 19, dropsy (oedema secondary to heart failure).

### 1875-1885

Total deaths: 200, m74, f 67, highest death rate in 1879 with 25 recorded burials and lowest 1876 13. 35 < 1 year.

In 1875 Two members of the Holland family from Winnall died in April, Ann age 5 <sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> and Albert age 6 months baptised 5 April buried 25 April s. William and Anne. In April/ June, Ada Whitney age 8 and Kate Whitney age 21 were buried.

1878 April 17<sup>th</sup> Elizabeth Cocks age 2 days and Frederick Cocks age 1 day were buried on the same day s. and d. John and Georgina. 1878/79 September William Rogers age 7 months and 1879 February Mary Rogers d. James and Rebecca 3 months. In April Lizzie Jane Stratford d. Joseph and Elizabeth age 1 was buried and 1880 in April another child names Lizzie Jane Stratford died age 1.

### 1889 diphtheria became a notifiable disease

### 1886-1896

#### 4 successive epidemics 1890-94

***1889-91 influenza epidemic by February 1890 had spread throughout uk three more waves, peak in May 1891 and January 1892 and December 1893..death rate high***

Total deaths 194 m 64 f 91 the highest in 1892 27 and lowest 1889 13. 20 < 1 year.

November 1886 Louisa Martha North age 35 was buried and 8 months later July 1887 Louisa Maria North d. Louisa and George age 8 months was buried. 1892 in August Edith Witney age 7 was buried and in September Hilda Witney age 16 months was buried. No family links were indicated in the record.

1895 a search of death certificates for under 40s indicates the causes of death see appendix

### 1896 vaccination against typhoid became available

Highest number of recorded burials was 21 in 1897 and the lowest number in 1905 9. 11 < 1 year. Plus the triplets not recorded in CP records = 14

In 1897 there was a cluster of 7 deaths in the first few months January to April in Oakley.

In 1899 there were 2 cases of death from whooping cough Alfred Witney age 16 months in October and Charles Witney age 10 months in November. In July and August three deaths from d and v in children under 2 years.

## 1900-1950

### Population 1901 1,1002

#### 1900 Vaccination against cholera became available

1900 total deaths 12, 1 child, oldest Amelia Webster 88

1901 total deaths 10 no children William Webster 88

#### 1902 Registration of Midwives Act

1902 total 15 1 child Lavinia Cheves 79

1903 total 20, 4 children, John Rogers 88. Mary Witney of Oakley died in March of tuberculosis age 22 and Bertie Witney of Oakley, age 2 died of convulsions in June. Family connection is not noted.

1904 total 10, 1 child Thomas Witney 92.

1905 total 9 no children, Alice King 78

1906 total 15, no children recorded, Elizabeth Hobbs 89. However, triplets were born in the village but do not appear on the baptism or burial register, information about his was obtained from local news papers. In October 1906 a report in the *Bucks Herald* stated that triplets were born in Chinnor and was the first case of triplets being born in the village.<sup>9</sup> They were described as premature although historically this was designated by a baby's weight as being less than 5 <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> pounds rather than the length of gestation. The attending doctor, Dr. Bell, notified King Edward VII for the traditional royal bounty, the condition for this being that the babies survived. However, whilst this was having the royal consideration, the babies died. Nonetheless, the King graciously sent a donation of £1. From the report it would seem that the babies were born alive and died subsequently, their death certificates indicated that Clifford died at three days, William died at 15 hours and Thomas 1 day, although there is no record of their baptism or burial in the Parish records.

1907 total 13, 2 children, Leah Howlett 91.

1908 total 11, 2 children, Elizabeth Saw 88.

1909 total 11 no children died Elizabeth Howlett 92.

1910 total 18, 1 child, Frederick Bowler 85.

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<sup>9</sup> Triplets in Chinnor, *Bucks Herald*, 6 October, 1906.

1911 total 8 no children, Edward Howlett.

population 975

1912 total 16, 2 children, Robert Saw 88.

In February 1912 Daisy Wallington age 22 months died of congenital heart disease and buried on the same day was Glady Wallington age 14 days as the result of premature birth.

**polio became a notifiable disease.**

1913 total 17, 3 children died, Elizabeth Saw 88.

**vaccination against diphtheria became available, there was an outbreak of scarlet fever in Chinnor, 11 cases and 41 cases of measles but no deaths were attributed to this. See appendix B.**

1914 total 12, 1 child died. Three were residents with the surname Croxford: George, 73 in January, Annie 71 in March Ralph, 11 months in June. Caroline Hopkins 86

**1915-1919 measles notifiable and then from 1940**

1915 total 10, no child deaths

1916 total 16, 1 child died George Batten 91

1917 total 14, Gwendoline Still age 21 died of whooping cough. 1 child died, S. Ludlow 90.

1918 total 17 no child/infant deaths recorded. Sarah Seymour 90.

**1918-1919 influenza out break, national death rate 3,129 per million and 1,217 per million**

One resident was recorded as having died from influenza Alfred Hester December 1918 age 29 from Henton.

1919 total 9, 2 children died, Jane Southam 92.

**an out break of measles, 8 cases, resulted in one death, Victor Turner age 2.**

1920 total 16, 2 children died, Dorothy Loomes age 14 months whooping cough, Leah Seymour 82

1921 total 16 no child deaths recorded. Ariana Rowcroft 88

1922 total 27 one child died Barbara Thompson died of whooping cough age 9 months but not recorded on the notification register. George Rowcoft 90

**1922 national influenza epidemic death rate 563 per million**

1923 total 13, no children died. Nellie Welford of Henton age 10 died of tuberculosis. Benjamin Hill 85.

1924 total 13, no children died

**1924 national influenza epidemic death rate 489 per million**

1925 total 18 no children William Marchant and Mary Philips 88.

1926 total 17 no children recorded Mary Bass 80 and John Bass 78 died within a month, George Howlett 93. Four Howletts died this year.

1927 total 21, James and Charlotte Rogers, both in their 80s were buried on the same day in January. Three Croxfords: Edith 48, Elizabeth, 75, Wilfred, 15 Edwin Saw 88.

**1927 national influenza pandemic death rate 567 per million**

1928 total 18, 1 child, Henty Marriott 87.

1929 total 14, 2 children, 15 cases of scarlet fever three deaths might have been related to this, Edith Croxford 48 cardiac failure rheumatic fever, Wilfred Croxford 15, rheumatic fever heart failure, Elizabeth Plumridge 36 rheumatic endocarditis.

1930 total 18, no children, John Hopkins, 94

**1931 population 1,124**

1931 total 20, Martha Hill 91

1932 total 20 1 child Susanna Gibbs 87 Sarah Brazell 87.

1933 total 16 Elizabeth Saw 86

**national influenza pandemic death rate 520 per million.**

1934 total 23 1 child Sara Heybourne 97.

1935 total 18 no children Eliza Green 88.

1936

1937

**national influenza epidemic death rate 418 per million**

**local outbreak of scarlet fever 11 cases**

**1938 first sulphonamide drug Prontosil produced by Beyer start of therapeutic revolution. Effective gainst gram positive streptococcus**

**1940 out break of sf 6 cases and 4 cases of measles,**

**1941; 9 cases of measles no reported burials,**

**1942 5 cases of measles,**

**1947 11 cases of whooping cough**