

# THE CEMETERY GATES



**The Friends of Cathays Cemetery**



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# 1 Background & History



The often overlooked Cemetery Gates, facing Fair Oak Road, were built in 1857-9 for the Cardiff New Cemetery and designed by R.G. Thomas, architect of Newport, in collaboration with T. Waring, Borough Surveyor to compliment the Excelsior design of the Chapels, Lodge and Bier House (now lost).

The design is quite elaborate in comparison to gates of cemeteries built at the same time and are worthy of further study.

## 2 Other Comparable Cemetery Gates

Following are a few illustrations of contemporary designs used at Cemeteries in the UK.



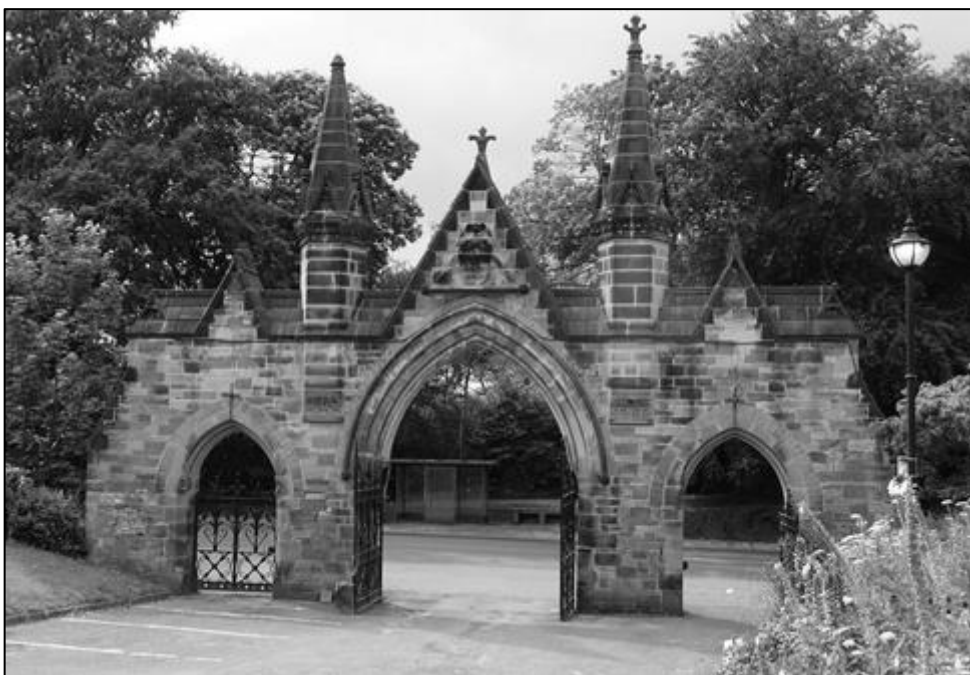
*Rochdale Cemetery Gates 1855*



*Victoria Cemetery Gates, Carrickfergus, 1904*



*West Norwood Cemetery Gates, London 1837*



*Stapenhill Cemetery Gates, Burton upon Trent 1866*



*Kingston Cemetery Gates, London 1855*



*Burnham-on-Sea Cemetery Gate, Somerset 1885*

### 3 Architectural Details

This chapter illustrates the architectural designs used on the front and back of the gates. It seems from original photographs that the sub-arches never carried crosses on the top.

#### FRONT





1. Shield – Cardiff coat of arms



2. Shield – Coat of arms of the Mayor who proceeded with the project, Charles Crofts Williams of Cardiff, home in Roath Court.



3. Shield – Bishop of Llandaff



4. Left Angel



5. Right Angel



6. Left Left-Side Capital



7. Right Left-Side Capital



8. Left Main Capital



9. Right Main Capital



10. Left Right-Side Capital



## 11. Right Right-Side Capital



## 12. Left Left-side Iron Gate



# REAR



1. Central Shield - Cardiff Villa emblem, as seen on City Hall



2. Left Shield - Blank



3. Left Angel





4. Right Angel



5. Right Shield - Blank



## 4 Saving the Shield

In 2022 it was decided that the Friends would finance the replacement of the damaged front left shield. Aided by some help from the friends, MS-Group was approached to complete the work. The shield needed to be sculpted from scratch using a copy of the coat of arms of the then Lord Mayor as n only one photograph of the original design exists, in a slightly blurry state.

As stated above the missing coat of arms belonged to the Mayor at the time of opening the Cemetery, who proceeded with the project, Charles Crofts Williams of Cardiff, his home was in Roath Court. The new shield should resemble a simplified version of this:





