

2. THE CHURCH YARD CROSS



The earliest known representation of the cross is in an etching of the church published by Richard Godfrey in 1782 (left). Only two steps to the base are visible in the etching, though there are actually three old steps; these show the same evidence of wear and do not seem to have been moved. The current top step looks newer, possibly added to hold the shaft more firmly when the cross was restored for the coronation of Edward VII in 1911, according to the plaque on the step.

When the Historic Monuments surveyors visited the church in 1927 their handwritten notes said that above the square-stepped base there was a short length of square shaft with stop chamfered angles. The printed version of the survey says that the shaft was octagonal with initials T. W., W. B. 1691.

The initials TW and WB and the date 1691 cannot now be found, but Thomas Weare and William Boughan were churchwardens in 1691. The 1782 etching is interesting in that it shows rather more at the top of the shaft than is now there, though not a cross. It is quite possible that the cross was vandalised during the Civil War, as possession of Goodrich castle changed hand several times. Richard Tyler, constable of the castle during the Civil War, lived near the church.

The handwritten version of the 1927 survey said that a 'modern' (i.e. post 1720) sundial had been put on top of the shaft, the printed version just 'a sundial'. This is octagonal, missing its gnomon which may have been pulled out as the brass is split.