

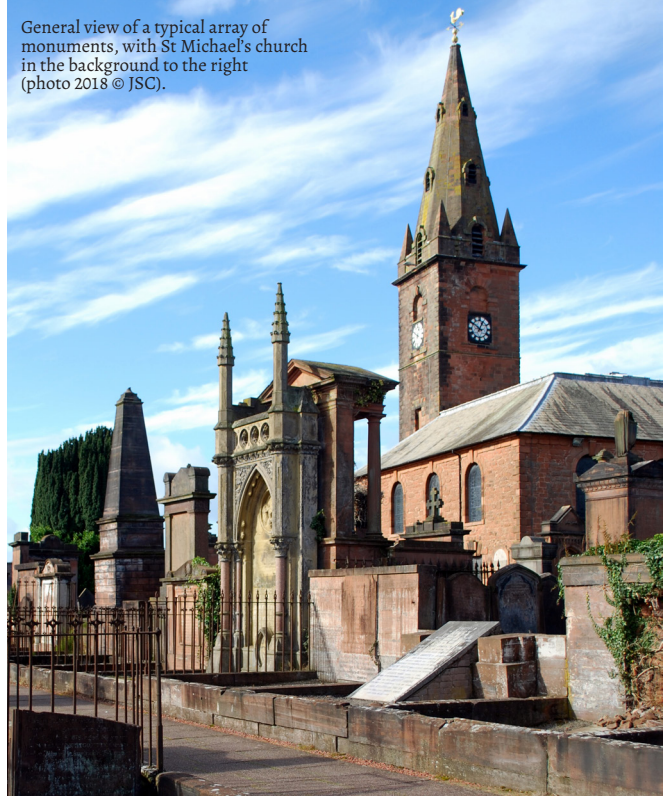
SPECIAL PRE-PUBLICATION SUBSCRIPTION OFFER

# St Michael's Kirkyard, Dumfries

## A Presbyterian Valhalla

by JAMES STEVENS CURL

The burial-ground attached to St Michael's and South parish church, Dumfries, in south-west Scotland, has existed as a place of interment for at least a millennium. Of extraordinarily high density—probably containing no fewer than eighty thousand burials—it is embellished with an amazing array of funerary monuments and tombstones, some of superb architectural quality, and many of astonishing size and grandeur considering the relatively small area it occupies. In terms of its scale and architectural character, St Michael's kirkyard is unique among provincial churchyards within the United Kingdom: this book describes its historical importance and aesthetic qualities, illustrating some of its finest monuments, and drawing on a remarkable cache of original architectural drawings by Walter Newall held by the Dumfries and Galloway Archive Service, Ewart Library, in Dumfries itself. The kirkyard also houses the handsome Neo-Classical mausoleum of Scotland's national poet, Robert Burns, almost an exact contemporary of his fellow-Freemason, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, so the book will also contain investigations into aspects of how the tomb and monument commemorating Burns respond to the man, his poetry, and his times.



General view of a typical array of monuments, with St Michael's church in the background to the right (photo 2018 © JSC).

FOLLOWING THE SUCCESS of the **Nerfl Press's** handsome facsimile edition of **J. C. Loudon's** great book on ***Cemeteries***, published in 2019, it is proposed to bring out another volume, also a **Limited, Numbered Edition**, casebound, with around 100 illustrations, many in colour, all produced to a very high standard, designed, printed, and bound by the same team which produced the Loudon tome. It will be indexed by **Auriol Griffith-Jones**, have a **Foreword** by the expert on monuments and memorials, **Roger Bowdler**, and an Epilogue by the debunker of Rosslyn mythology, **Robert L. D. Cooper**.

**Subscriptions** are invited to raise sufficient funds so that this important project can be realised. **Names of Subscribers** will be printed within the book if desired.



The Burns mausoleum, from a postcard of 1905, showing the sculpture within by Peter Turnereilli (1774-1839) featuring Burns at his plough (image courtesy of © the Dumfries Museum, BUR/239).

**James Stevens Curl** has studied funerary architecture and landscapes for some 64 years: among his published works are *The Victorian Celebration of Death* (1972 and 2004), *A Celebration of Death* (1980), *Funerary Monuments & Memorials in St Patrick's Cathedral, Armagh* (2013), and studies of funerary monuments by Sir Francis Chantrey and others. He contributed to, and edited, the major study of the General Cemetery of All Souls, Kensal Green, London (2001).

Subscriptions must be received by me no later than **1 November 2020**. The cost per copy will be **£40.00** to include postage and packing within the United Kingdom only. For postage outside the UK please add £10.00, and for postage outside Europe please add £20.00. Copies will be sent out to subscribers as soon as the book is available, estimated as February 2021. After 1 November the price per copy will be £60.00, so subscribers will get a fine copy at less than cost.

To subscribe please fill in the form below, printing clearly to avoid any errors of interpretation.

Please supply ..... copy/ies of *St Michael's Kirkyard, Dumfries: A Presbyterian Valhalla* by James Stevens Curl (ISBN: 978-0-9529780-0-4) at the special price of:

£40 (UK)    £50 (Europe)    £60 (Rest of the World) *Please tick as applicable.*

I enclose cash/crossed cheque/postal order/banker's draft for £..... payable to 'James Stevens Curl' to cover the prime cost of the volume plus postage.

I regret I cannot accept credit or debit cards, nor can I accept direct bank payments.

Name (**BLOCK CAPITALS**) . . . . .

Full address (**BLOCK CAPITALS**) . . . . .

. . . . . Postcode . . . . .

Telephone number (with area code) . . . . .

e-mail address. . . . .

**Please write your name on the line below in EXACTLY the form in which you wish it to appear in the List of Subscribers printed in the book. If you do not wish to your name to be printed, please write NO NAME.**

Please send the completed form with the remittance to:

**Professor James Stevens Curl, 15 Torgrange, Holywood, County Down, BT18 0NG, United Kingdom**

Tel: +44 (0) 28 90 425 141 or e-mail: [jscurl@btinternet.com](mailto:jscurl@btinternet.com)

**IF YOU SEND CASH WITH YOUR ORDER PLEASE ENSURE YOU POST IT SPECIAL DELIVERY**

*If insufficient subscriptions are obtained to enable to the project to proceed, all monies will be returned.*