

## Hunston Convent & Portfield Cemetery, Chichester

### Compiled by Richard D North

As at 12 December 2024  
Data compiled 2019-2024

The Chichester Carmel (the “Hunston Convent”) existed 1872-1994 and 36 of its nuns died and were buried in its enclosure. Upon the convent’s closure they were reinterred in Portfield Cemetery, Chichester (and were joined by a Hunston nun, Sr Mary Assumpta, who had died elsewhere, and three others associated with the convent).

#### Key to headings

*Secular name:* Such as would appear in birth certificates, etc

*Religious name:* Name adopted for convent life (from Portfield handwritten notes)

*PCBRID:* Portfield Cemetery Burial Record ID (**PCBRID**)

*PC Age at death:* as noted in Portfield Cemetery records

*AGSQ Date of Birth:* from Annual Hunston Convent AGSQ Returns at **DAB**

*AGSQ Date of Death:* **DAB** AGSQ record may be a year or so out

*AGSQ Hunston residence:* **DAB** AGSQ record may be a year or so out

*RDN Note:* RDN’s comments

#### General notes:

(1) **Portfield Cemetery data:** The formal burial record and some handwritten notes which are also held by the cemetery authorities. Portfield material does have the **ages** of death of the re-interred nuns, which mostly derive from a handwritten record also in the possession of the Chichester cemetery authorities and which presumably originated from convent records, and were shared by the cemetery authorities with RDN. (RDN has not inquired into the provenance of the handwritten records.)

(2) **The Diocese of Arundel and Brighton (DAB)** archive holds the **Annual General Statistical Questionnaire (AGSQ)** returns for the years 1976 to 1994. My notes and understanding of these returns may be a year or two out, especially as to dates of death (which Mother Superiors filled out in arrears) and/or as to the nuns’ periods of Hunston residence which I deduce from their Superior’s notes.

(3) My notes and photos from 2019 suggest the **Annual General Statistical Questionnaire (AGSQ)** for 1976-1994 held at the **Diocese of Arundel and Brighton (DAB)** contain the secular and religious names of the community’s nuns. DAB in 2019 didn’t want me to publish their material and I honoured that stricture. The Portfield material, being in the public domain, releases me from the DAB’s strictures though I have risked culling the Annual General Statistical Questionnaire (AGSQ) material for

some dates which would be researchable in secular sources anyway, now we have the community's secular names.

(4) The heading "**Waterbeach transfer**" denotes those nuns who moved to Hunston from the Waterbeach Carmelite convent, which itself was founded in 1937, having moved from Grantchester Road, Cambridge in the 1920s. The Waterbeach community moved to Hunston in the early 1970s, about doubling the number of sisters living there. I have derived the names of the transferees from online census records for the Waterbeach Carmelite community as it stood in 1937. It is quite possible that there are later, or better, sources of information on the Waterbeach community which transferred to Hunston.

(5) It follows from the above that follow-up research could either chase the DAB material direct (for Hunston convent information) or chase the **Portfield** "secular name" route in normal genealogical avenues (to firm-up birth and death dates).

(6) The Portfield material covers those 36 nuns (plus another, mentioned above) who were buried in Hunston's conventual cemetery in its lifetime, 1872-1994. Those that died or left the convent between 1872 and the 1976 start of the DAB's Annual General Statistical Questionnaire (AGSQ) period naturally don't appear in the AGSQ record though several of them appear in the Portfield records. I have been able to follow up the deaths of several of the nuns who left Hunston around 1994 and went to other convents thereafter. They are listed. [][[Heree]

#### **The Hunston Community re-interred in Portfield Cemetery, 1872-1994**

Secular Name: **Nicholl, Imelda**

Religious Name: **Mary Mother Mary Teresa of the Mercy of God**

PCBRID: 18681

Age at Death 70

Secular Name: **Hall, Mary Bertha,**

Religious name: **Sr Teresa Francis of the Dolours of Our Blessed Lady**

PCBRID: 18682

PC Age at death: 88

Secular Name: **Dixon, Frances**

Religious name: **Sister Ann Joseph of our Lady of Mount Carmel**

PCBRID: 18683

PC Age at death: 69

Secular Name: **Leviounas, Lea [sic]**

Religious name: **Sr Ann Teresa of the Immaculate Conception [sic]**

PCBRID: 18684

PC Age at death: 30

RDN note: The name Leah Levionnais [sic] occurs in "I Carried You...", with the religious name of Anne Teresa, c30 years old, a nun from Valognes who died at Mundham and was interred as the first sister in Hunston's convent cemetery. The formal burial records from Portfield have her as "Sr Anne Teresa of the Immaculate Conception." She can be deduced to have died in March or April 1872.

Secular Name: **Meslin, Clementine**

Religious name: **Sr Mary Martha of Jesus**

PCBRID: 18685

PC Age at death: 62

Secular Name: **Perelle, Alice de la**

Religious name: **Sr Teresa Joseph of Jesus crucified**  
18686

PC Age at death: 26

Secular Name: **Sankey, Emily Eileen**

Religious name: **Sr Mary Angela of Jesus**

PCBRID: 18687

DoB: 18 August 1902 (from civil material)

PC Age at death: 73

DoD: c71 (deduced from above info)

RDN note: Has a sibling nun, Mary (qv)

RDN note: Waterbeach transfer (in W'beach in 1937)

Secular Name: **Seeligman, Muriel**

Religious name: **Sr Miriam Teresa of the Immaculate Conception**

PCBRID: 18688

PC Age at death: 64

Secular Name: **Page, Mary Teresa**

Religious name: **Mary Philip of St Teresa**

PCBRID: 18689

ABD Date of Death: 15 February 1979 (from 1978 return, filled out "in arrears")

Age at Death: 86

Hunston residence: 1976-1979

RDN note: Waterbeach transfer (in W'beach in 1937)

Secular Name: **De Horne, Joyce Yvonne**

Religious name: **Mary Bernard of Christ**

PCBRID: 18690  
PC Age at death: 55  
Hunston Residence: 1976-78

Secular Name: **Orford, Hannah Matthews**  
Religious name: **Sr Mary Veronica of the Sacred Face**  
PCBRID: 18691  
PC Age at death: 76

Secular Name: **Alexandra Capice Galeota Della Regina**  
Religious name: **Sr Mary Gabriel of the Incarnation**  
PCBRID: 18692  
PC Age at death: 78  
RDN note: Alexandra's family name is that of Neapolitan aristocrats

Secular Name: **Burchell, Sophie**  
Religious name: **Sr Magdalen Teresa of Jesus**  
PCBRID: 18693  
PC Age at death: 69

Secular Name: **Gardiner, Beatrice Mary**  
Religious name: **Sr Teresa Margaret Joseph the Sacred Heart**  
PCBRID: 18694  
PC Age at death: 82

Secular Name: **Henderson, Jane**  
Religious name: **Sr Mary Aloysius of the Infant Jesus**  
PCBRID: 18695  
PC Age at death: 92

Secular Name: **Watt, Eleanor Mary Hilda Rose**  
Religious name: **Sr Mary Evangelista of Jesus**  
PCBRID: 18696  
PC Age at death: 78

Secular Name: **Roope, Matilda Mary Catherine**  
Religious name: **Mother Teresa Augustine of the Martyrs of Compiegne**  
PCBRID: 18697  
PC Age at death: 83

Secular Name: **Barnes, Irene Marie A Abigail**  
Religious name: **Sr Teresa Catherine of the Annunciation**

PCBRID: 18698  
PC Age at death: 74

Secular Name: **Cox, Ann**  
Religious name: **Sr Mary Teresa of the Holy Angels**  
PCBRID: 18699  
PC Age at death: 80

Secular Name: **Desvallées, Marie Ernestine**  
Religious name: **Sr Mary Xavier of the Holy Name of Jesus**  
PCBRID: 18700  
PC Age at death: 74

Secular Name: **Carpue [Cardue?], Ann Sarah**  
Religious name: **Sr Mary Charles St Alphonsus Liguori**  
PCBRID: 18701  
PC Age at death: 65

Secular Name: **Richardson, Frances**  
Religious name: **Sr Mary Bernard of the Crown of Thorns**  
PCBRID: 18702  
PC Age at death: 77

Secular Name: **Marest, Boune Marie Francoise Charlotte [sic]**  
Religious name: **Sr Mary Magdalen of the Blessed Trinity**  
PCBRID: 18703  
PC Age at death: 96  
RDN note: She had a sibling, Marie, a Hunston convent housekeeper (qv).  
RDN note: Waterbeach transfer (in W'beach in 1937)  
RDN note: Marie *Bonne* Marest was a niece of Father Marest who had been important to the English Carmelites exiled in Valognes. See, "I Carried You..."

Secular Name: **Neville, Mary Jane**  
Religious name: **Mother Mary Joseph of the Blessed Sacrament**  
PCBRID: 18704  
PC Age at death: 73

Secular Name: **Bulbeck, Teresa Mary**  
Religious name: **Mother Teresa Joseph**  
PCBRID: 18705  
PC Age at death: 64

Secular Name: **Gadd, Mary Ann**  
Religious name: **Sr Mary Angela of St Joseph**  
PCBRID: 18706  
PC Age at death: 56

Secular Name: **Bamber, Dorothy Trevor**  
Religious name: **Sr Mary Bede of the Incarnation**  
PCBRID: 18707  
PC Age at death: 82

Secular Name: **McSweeney, Geraldine**  
Religious name: **Sr Mary Magdalen of the Holy Ghost**  
PCBRID: 18708  
PC Age at death: 92  
Hunston time: 1976-1982

RDN note: Recorded in Portfield Burial Records but not in the handwritten scraps.

Secular Name: **Makepeace, Doris Mary**  
Religious name: **Sr Teresa of Jesus**  
PCBRID: 18709  
PC Age at death: 87  
Hunston residence: 1976-85

RDN note: Recorded in Portfield Burial Records but not in the handwritten scraps.  
Waterbeach transfer (in W'beach in 1937)

Secular Name: **De Giorgio, Antoinette**  
Religious name: **Sr Antoinette of Jesus**  
PCBRID: 18710  
PC Age at death: 63

RDN note: Recorded in Portfield Burial Records but not in the handwritten scraps.

Secular Name: **De Seganville, Anne Mary Louise**  
Religious name: **Mother Anne of the Holy Spirit [Burial Record says Ghost]**  
PCBRID: 18711  
PC Age at death: 74  
RDN Note: Waterbeach transfer (in W'beach in 1937)

Secular Name: **Walsh, May**  
Religious name: **Sr Mary of the Heart of Jesus**  
PCBRID: 18712

PC Age at death: 84  
RDN note: Waterbeach transfer (in W'beach in 1937)

Secular Name: **Raymond-Baker, Winifred**  
Religious name: **Sr Rosario of Christ**  
PCBRID: 18713  
PC Age at death: 90  
Hunston time: 1976-80  
RDN note: Waterbeach transfer (in W'beach in 1937)

Secular Name: **Jenkins, Rose**  
Religious name: **Sr Mary Gertrude of the Blessed Sacrament**  
PCBRID: 18714  
PC Age at death: 76

Secular Name: **Hamilton, Selina**  
Religious name: **Sr Therese of Child Jesus**  
PCBRID: 18715  
PC Age at death: 89  
ABD Date of Birth: 22 July 1904  
ABD Date of Death: 1992 or 1993 (note-taking?)  
Hunston residence: 1976-85; 1987-92 or 1993

Secular Name: **Amann, Evelyn**  
Religious name: **St Mary Martha of St Joseph**  
PCBRID: 18716  
PC Age at death: 85  
ABD Date of Birth: 22 May 1908  
ABD Date of Death: 1992 or 1993 (note-taking?)

**Wallace, Jessie**  
(Housekeeper)  
PCBRID: 18717  
PC Age at death: Not given

**Marest, Marie**  
(Housekeeper)  
PCBRID: 18718  
PC Age at death: Not given  
RDN note: Had a sibling, at first a helper and then a professed nun, Bonne (qv)

Secular Name: **Penderell, Sarah**  
Religious name: **Mother Mary Baptist of St Joseph**

PCBRID: 18719

Born 1805 (From her headstone)

Died 1886 (From her headstone)

PC Age at death: 81

RDN note: The founding Mother Superior at Hunston, transferring the convent from Valognes.

RDN Note: Her gravestone at Hunston.

RDN Note: Extensive mentions in "I Carried you..."

### **Gravey, Hippolytus Francis**

(Priest) Reverend Father

PCBRID: 18720

PC Age at death: 81

RDN note: The priest who accompanied the Valognes nuns to Hunston.

See a note in Breeze's "History of the Chichester Carmel" and extensive mentions in "I Carried you...."

Secular Name: **Sankey, Mary Constance**

Religious name: **Mary Assumpta**

PCBRID: 18670 (separate document)

PC Age at death: 94

Date of Birth: 18 November, 1899 (from secular record)

RDN note: Recorded in Portfield Burial Records but not in handwritten scraps.

RDN note: Has a sibling Hunston nun, Emily (qv)

RDN note: Died in NHS hospital and interred in Portfield direct.

RDN note: Waterbeach transfer (in W'beach in 1937)