



St Patrick's Burial Register 1900

Around 1900 there were some surprises in the village of High Spen. You would imagine out in the country people would be fit and healthy. But dangers lurked everywhere and not just down the pit. Knowledge of what caused diseases was growing but doctors and medicines were expensive. The greatest danger was for babies and toddlers because they had not had time to become immune to many common diseases – Scarlet Fever, German measles and TB could be killers and often were.

Now lets see what your chances of survival might be in 1900.

Your first shock might be the name of the vicar – The Reverend Death – pronounced DEE-ATH.

- As you read through the list of burials, make a mark for every death in a particular age group. Divide the end block (Number of Deaths) with an equal measurement for each death. Once you have counted and marked up you should have completed a bar graph.



The Tally of Death June – August 1900

Age of Death	Number of Deaths
Less than one year old	
1 – 10 Years	
11 – 20 Years	
21 – 40 Years	
41 – 60 Years	
Over 60 Years	

- Which age group has the most deaths and which the least? Can you suggest reasons for this?
- Which family or families seem to have suffered a great deal from deaths?
- This does not tell us what they died of. What would you need to tell you this information?



A Place to Die?

Where did they die?	Number
High Spen	
Chopwell	
Victoria Garsfield	
Winlaton	
Barlow	
Scotswood	
Rowlands Gill	

- In which place did most people die? Does this mean that more people were dying here than anywhere else?
- Why would some people be buried in High Spen who had lived elsewhere?