

CHURCH BIER

Note in Keble's Gazette of 18th August 1888, p. 8, under "BIRCHINGTON" heading.

All Saints Church: An effort is being made to provide a hand-held hearse, or more properly, a bier on wheels, for use in the churchyard and an offertory, taken on Sunday last (11th August 1888) for the object, realized £10 2s 6d. This will be a great boon to the poorer villagers, as it will enable funerals at a distance ** to be carried out at about half the cost for the body bearers. The new bier will be supplied by Messrs Dottridge of City Road, London and will cost £14.

** The churchyard was gradually being enlarged from this period onwards, which meant that coffins were now having to be carried a longer and longer distance from the church doors.