

# The Witch of the Village

By Alan Miles ([email](#)) – July 2013

It was in the late summer of 1970, that I had an encounter with a frightening ghost. I was just 21 years old and I had just visited a mate who lived in Merton Road, just outside of the old village. It was on my way home from visiting my friend Tony that I had to cut through St. Mary's churchyard, which was the shortest route to Forest Road where I lived at the YMCA. It was a nice warm evening and as I approached the churchyard of St. Mary's, I noticed that all the lights in the churchyard were out.

Back then, I didn't believe in ghosts so I strolled confidently through the cemetery. However, as I approached the church tower, I could see the clock on it which showed, that it was 1am. All of a sudden and in front of me ran a figure, quite tall and dressed all in white and what looked like sandals which were ill-fitting and which flopped as it ran. When it reached the opposite railings it held on to them with both hands and bowed its head. I noticed that the hair was black and cut just below the ears, and it was quite thick hair and rough-cut. This observation about the hair is quite significant as I shall explain later.

The ghost shook the railings and screamed in terror very wildly and loudly. There and then I stopped and told the figure to "f-off". The ghost about turned and ran to the church tower, still screaming, it stopped at the tomb adjoining the church tower. It lent its left arm on the tomb, propping its head, and still crying and screaming. I still thought it was a person playing a prank on me, so then I shouted at it "Are you trying to frighten me, I'll give you a right thumping" the ghost screamed the more after I said that. Anyway, I carried on walking through the churchyard, turning around occasionally and cursed the figure.

The following week I again visited my friend Tony, who was once a gravedigger and told him about the bloke (well at that point I thought it was a bloke) that dressed-up and who ran round the churchyard. Tony replied "Oh don't talk about that, it's a ghost of a witch, that runs round the churchyard and Tony said a policeman had a nervous breakdown after he saw the same thing a while back.

A ghost of a witch yes that could be true , because I noticed that the hair was cut short , just below the years and this was done to hang witches, making it easier and quicker for the witch to die.

The tomb that the witch lent on has long since been removed. There was an article written in the local Guardian about the tomb, which adjoined the church tower. The tomb was knocked down and inside was revealed a coffin with a female skeleton inside, but between her legs nestled the skeleton of a baby. The discovery of the skeletal baby was quite a surprise since its existence was previously unknown, before opening the tomb.

A very gothic sad and true story I have told you here and I am left wondering why the tomb was knocked down, I was not the only person who had experienced this ghost I'm quite certain of that. Hopefully, the tomb was dismantled and the woman given a good Christian burial putting her soul at rest.

