

INVESTIGATION REPORT



Investigation Site	Kensworth, Church End
Investigation Date	17 th May 2013
Report By	Bill King
Team Members	Bill, Steph, Andy F, Elaine, Dee, Sarah, Marion, Richard, Andy G

Background

Three ghosts are alleged to haunt Footpath No. 4 in Kensworth. These consist of a headless milkmaid, a witch and Shuck (Anglo-Saxon *scucca* or *sceocca*: Satan), a one-eyed black retriever. The footpath runs between Common Road and Hollicks Lane and is also known as the Coffin Route. The reason for its more gruesome name is because in the past people who could not afford a hearse to take a body to St Mary's churchyard at Church End would carry the coffin along the path.

Church End is also haunted by the ghosts of a milkmaid and a witch, both of whom haunt a path which runs north from the churchyard. The path to Kensworth lies to the south, on the opposite side of the church, so do both spirits haunt both paths, or has the location of the haunting become confused? No details are available about the Kensworth ghosts, but the Church End ones have good descriptions, so is Church End the real haunting?

Headless Milkmaid: The church of St Mary the Virgin at Church End, Kensworth and a nearby footpath, which runs north from the churchyard, are haunted by a headless spirit.

The ghost appears to be a milkmaid, complete with yoke from which hang two pails. Her most striking feature is her singular lack of a head! She walks down the path coming from the direction of the woods to the north and enters the churchyard. There are three local legends as to the origin of the ghost. The first has it that she was waylaid and murdered as she walked down the path. The second version of her death claims that she was killed by farm machinery in the early nineteenth century. In the third legend she dies a natural death and then her lover takes her head so that part of her can remain with him forever.

Incorporeal Witch: The footpath which runs from Beech Road, to the north of Church End, towards the church is haunted by the ghost of a witch. The ghost is said to be that of an old woman, wearing a black four cornered hat, which would date her to the late eighteenth century.

She follows the path from the woods, which lie three hundred metres to the north of the church, until she reaches the stile (now including a gate) into the churchyard, but there she stops. Instead of entering the churchyard she angrily shakes her fist at the church. Legend has it that a local witch was forbidden to enter the churchyard and now she spends eternity venting her anger at the church.

General

In this area there was little or no wind, the sky was overcast and there was little noise, just the quiet sounds of local voices (only heard as you near Kensworth), cars in Kensworth and passing aircraft. The area is a fairly dark one as there are no nearby street lights except on the edge of the churchyard with infrared sensors which only stay on for a short while. The moon was waxing and 48% of full at midnight.

Pre-Vigil

20:56 Whilst the team is waiting for the last member to arrive Bill notices a sound like someone banging food containers (calling the cat?). This was coming from the northwest by north. Bill looked round to face the direction the sound was coming from then turned to look north towards

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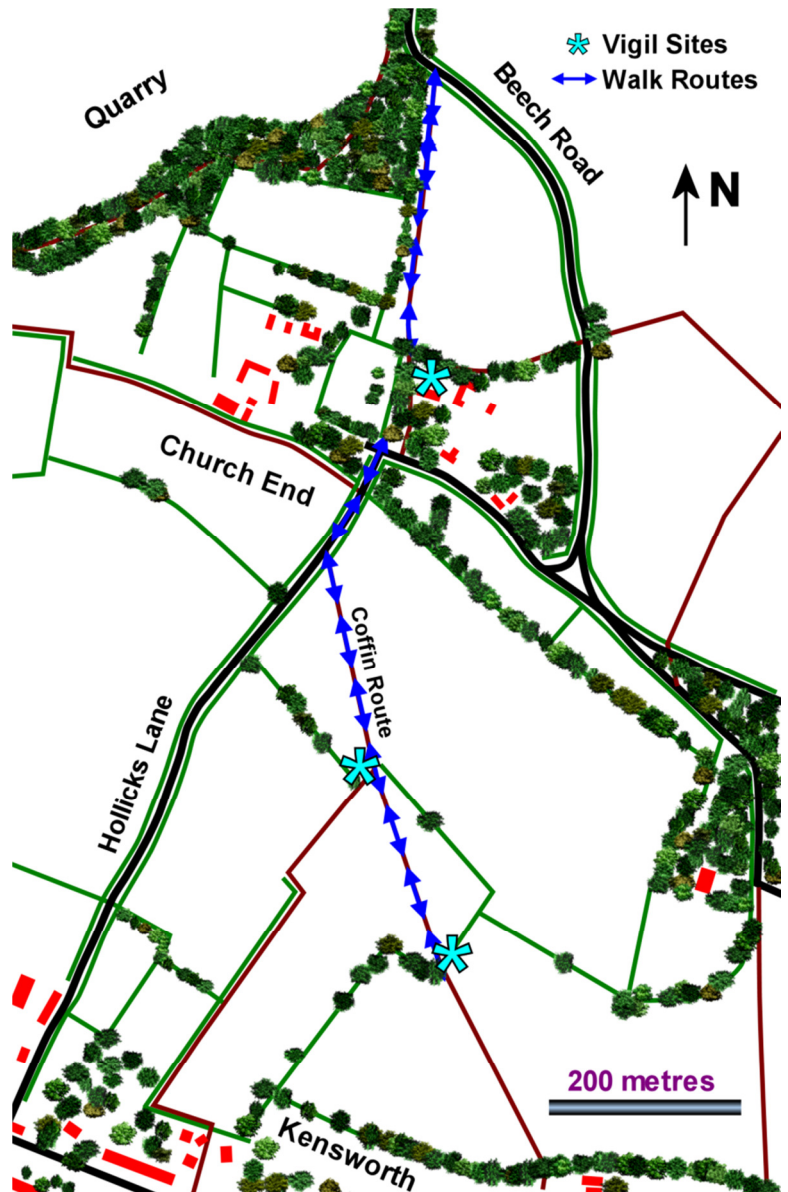
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the church. As his gazed approached the tower he saw a dark shadow, like a figure, moving left to right in front of the north gate from the churchyard. The figure was seen between two of the trees that run in a line north by east to the west of the tower. He lost sight of the figure behind the last tree in the row, the one nearest to the gate. When he saw the figure it was outlined against the light sky which was visible in the gap in the hedgerow where the gate lies. At the time he was looking straight at it.

When Bill mentioned this to other members of the team Andy G said that he had been aware of a presence near the hedgerow to the east of the gate. Dee also saw what appears to have been the same figure so it was decided to go up to the north gate just to check there was no one around. There was no sign of anyone.

After checking the area we split into two teams, one all male and the other all female. The male team chose to walk the coffin route whilst the female team chose to investigate the area of the church. For a general plan of the area see the drawing below right.

Dee noted that on arrival, everyone gathered in the car park by the church, which is at the bottom of a gentle slope (the top of the slope being behind the church). Dee noticed a couple by one of the graves quite near to the car park. They left soon after. During a discussion Dee was having with the new member, she suddenly shuddered with a cold chill and the hairs on the back of her neck began to tingle. She was not aware of anything that would have caused it at the time, and there was no notable breeze. A few minutes later, Dee thought she saw a figure move behind a tree at the top of the slope behind the church. As she was looking, she saw movement again and saw a dark figure walk to the left and disappear behind the tree once again. The figure was dark, silhouetted against the sky in the gap of hedgerow where there was a gate leading to the track behind the church. Dee moved to the left-hand end of the church/car park wall and stood observing the area up the slope. Dee saw the same dark figure several times (very clearly) and was convinced it was a real person. However, she couldn't figure out where the person had come from, or where it disappeared to. She heard absolutely no sound and with the



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distance, was not entirely sure of the perspective in terms of topography. Her observations were interrupted by Bill calling her over to the group for pre-investigation discussions at which point she mentioned having been watching a figure. It was then that Bill and the new member, Andy G, mentioned having seen the same thing.

Team 1

Walk: Footpath No. 4 – 21:10 to 21:25

The team took a short walk up Hollicks Lane until they met the entrance to the footpath which runs across the field towards Kensworth. We then followed the footpath as well as we could as the line had not been marked through the crop and was only distinguishable by faint footprints and a horse's hoof marks. We followed the path until we reached a field boundary two-thirds of the way along the path and in the bottom of the valley.

Vigil 1: Footpath No. 4 – 21:30 to 22:10

For this vigil Bill and Andy G stayed at the point two-thirds of the way along the footpath from Hollicks Lane. Andy G sat 3 metres away to the northeast by north from Bill who sat close to the line of the footpath. Andy G faced along the line of the footpath towards Kensworth whilst Bill faced south-southeast. Andy F and Richard walked back up the way we had come to the previous field boundary, a third of the way along the footpath from Hollicks Lane. For the vigil site location see the drawing on the preceding page.

21:30 Andy and Richard observe a large bonfire that has been set light to in a nearby field.

21:41 Bill measures the temperature at +10.5°C.

21:42 Steph radios to ask where we were.

21:47 Andy G reports that he has seen flashes of light in the trees just to the left of the path as it reaches Kensworth. Bill did not see anything even though he was looking along the path at the time.

21:54 For the third time in 10 minutes Bill saw a dark shadow out of the corner of his right eye. He had not noted the previous times as he thought it may just have been due to the infection that he has in his right eye but it kept happening at irregular intervals and was always in the same area with respect to the field. Each time the shadow appeared to be halfway up the slope below Kensworth but in a different place along the slope as if something was walking southeast to northwest. The first time it was close to the path, the second to Bill's right (almost due south) and the third just before where the slope disappears from sight behind trees southwest by south of Bill.

21:59 Bill sees a small patch of light on the path (or where the path should be, as it was too dark to actually see the path) about three-quarters of the way up the opposite slope towards Kensworth. The patch was oval shaped and about the same width as the path.

22:02 Richard feels a cold shiver down his left shoulder, and almost a firm jolt, like being shoved on the upper arm.

By the end of vigil Andy had not experienced anything paranormal.

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Post-Vigil

After the vigil Bill and Andy G walked back up the slope towards Church End where they re-joined Andy F and Richard. The whole team then walked back to the church to join Team 2 by the north gate. We then took a team photograph by the gate before Dee and Sarah had to leave. As Team 2 had already investigated the gate they chose to walk over to the graveyard to the north of the church whilst Team 1 investigated the gate.

Pre-Vigil

22:28 Whilst deciding where to settle for the vigil Andy G walked through the north gate closely followed by Bill. Both of them noticed that it felt notably colder in the area just the other side of the gate between the bushes of the hedgerow and before the ground starts to rise up towards Beech Road, starting just 2 metres away. This area is in a slight hollow. On the church side of the gate it was warmer and a few metres north of the gate was also warmer. It seemed that the cold area was confined to a patch just a metre across. Bill measured the temperature at +10.7°C which was almost the same as it had been in the valley towards Kensworth.

The gate sits in a gap in the hedgerow and there was a slight breeze coming from the north (just enough to move the tops of tall thin plants). This breeze was blowing down the path from Beech Road. If the temperature drop was due to the wind, why did it not feel just as cold 2 metres to the north of the gate where the breeze felt equally as strong?

When investigating the cold spot Bill walked 5 metres along the path to Beech Road then returned to the gate. As he re-entered the cold area he got cold shivers, though this may have been psychosomatic as he was already aware of his and Andy G's reaction to the area.

Vigil 2: Gate and Path – 22:30 to 23:00

For this vigil Andy G sat in the hollow to the north of the gate. Bill sat 20 metres north of the gate on the path to Beech Road and facing southeast by east. Richard sat by the gate on the church side and Andy F sat 10 metres southeast of the gate. For a plan of the area see the drawing on the right.

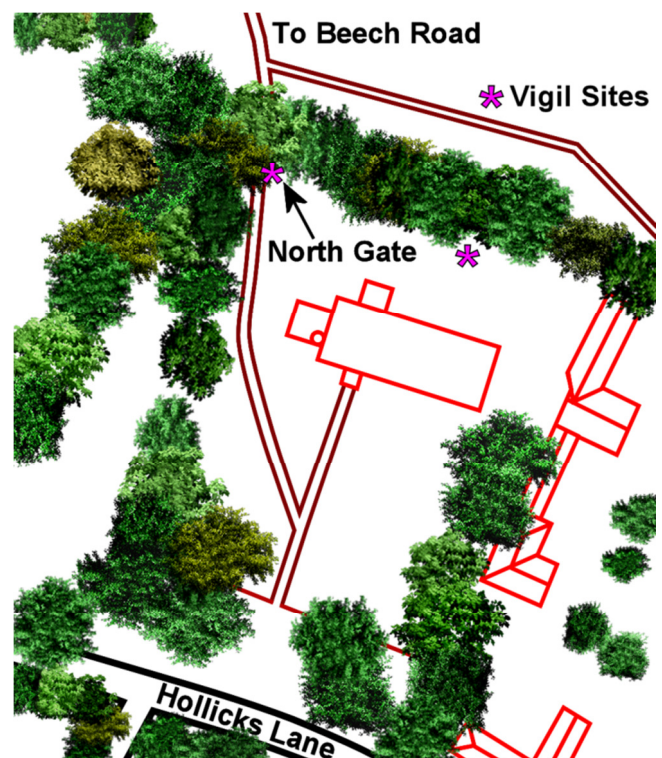
In this area there was some traffic noise from the A5 to the east especially coming from the northeast by east.

22:35 A really cold numbness sweeps across Richard's right hand, and hadn't felt cold at all up to this point.

22:36 Owl noises heard by Richard.

22:39 Richard feels like his throat is very dry, it feels like it's "cutting up" or thorny, and had a tendency to keep rubbing his neck.

22:41 Bill measures the temperature at +10.1°C.



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22:45 Andy F takes a temperature reading of +9.1°C. He is feeling as if someone is standing in the area of the graves behind him watching him.

22:49 Richard's head feels heavy – almost feeling drowsy.

22:56 Bill notes the sound of fireworks coming from the northeast by east.

22:41 The temperature is measured by Bill at +10.4°C.

22:51 Richard senses a woman here, but with a sense of anguish, but almost going through the area with intent and purpose for some reason.

23:00 Andy F has a random thought of a wedding and an old green car, possibly 1930's.

Andy G reported that the cold spot on the north side of the gate slowly dissipated during the vigil. He was given the name *Adam* and was told he worked at a *Peachtree Farm* (no information can be found about this farm) as a farm hand. He liked to stand by the gate and watch the people leaving the church especially the ladies. He was also told he had a backward nature. Nothing else happened for the rest of the vigil.

Team 2

Pre-Walk

This investigation is not conducted using the usual 'silent, stationery vigil' method. Instead, the all-female team move around freely, observing the surroundings and noting their impressions and physical experiences.

21:22 The girls are standing by the gate to the field at the back of the church. Marion looks to her right at the bench on which they have dumped their chairs and equipment while they decide how to proceed. Sitting in the middle of the bench amongst all their stuff is a very big man. Not fat but tall and very well built, with sturdy legs, broad shoulders and chest. His face is big and round and a little bit chubby. She can only see the right side of his face which looks a bit crinkled. He has thick dark wavy hair that falls down the sides of his face covering his ears. He wears a light beige 1940s overcoat with the buttons down the front and big lapels. The top button is undone and the collar open, there's a white shirt underneath and she thinks a dark tie. He has a bit of a smile on his face and looks a very pleasant chap happily sitting where he always has.

Dee spends some time attempting to recreate what she had seen from the car park by using Elaine as model for the dark figure. She concludes that the figure would have been tall and was inside the churchyard, as opposed to someone moving across the gateway in the field at the back of the church. Dee also investigates the area on the outside of the gate, which shows absolutely no evidence of trampled nettles or other signs of someone having walked across the gateway.

Walk: Footpath to Beech Road – 21:06 to 22:00

Dee is drawn very much to the path leading away from the church. The team decides to walk along the path. For a general plan of the area see page 4.

During this part of the investigation there were noises from occasional traffic, frequent aircraft (from Luton airport). As the team was constantly moving and often discussing the environment, experiences etc., it was difficult to constantly be aware of the ambient sounds.

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As the team were walking up the path of the field Steph and Dee were in front, Elaine sees a dark human shape by the trees in front of her. Elaine kept turning around as she felt that she was being followed as she saw a dark shadow by the trees then it crouched down, none of the other members reported that they saw it.

As the team reach a spot about a third of the way along there is a bit of a clearing in the trees on the left where Marion stops to take a photo. As she takes it she sees a big old fashioned hayrick.

21:32 Dee sees the same dark figure on the horizon (a hedgerow along a road some 100 metres away). The figure seemed to be standing in profile, facing right, and had bent forward at the waist, as though bowing or doubling in pain.

21:33 Sarah notes that on walking up the footpath, Sarah and Marion both noted a white mist to the left by the hedgerow.

Dee switches on her voice recorder after just having seen the black figure on the horizon (21:32). Dee's notes are from that recording (and memory).

Dee constantly saw a figure, and Elaine and Steph also could see this, so we followed it nearer the far boundary

21:35 Dee states that she feels like the team is being led up the path away from the church. As she says this, she sees what appears to be a red flash further up on the path. There is no mist and no breath visible on the air. No one was shining a torch at that time.

21:36 As the team stands still to evaluate the situation, Elaine mentions that she thinks she sees a figure in dark clothing back down the path near the church gate. Dee looks towards where Elaine is indicating and decides the dark shape she gets a brief glimpse of is too small to be a person. 'It's not a dog is it? It's too low to be a person'. Dee is not sure of what she sees, and remarks that it's easy for the late dusk to play tricks on the eyes.

21:37 Dee mentions being uncomfortable with the idea of being trapped; of being led up the path by something maintaining a distance on the horizon, then something appearing behind as well!

21:39 Dee mentions having a 'really heavy feeling' like walking a distance carrying stuff, with legs aching. She feels very uncomfortable all of a sudden and the hairs on her arms are standing up (she verifies this by torchlight).

21:40 Dee says "It's like death. Not like we're going to die. Like a journey." She then asks if there's an old cemetery or something up here. "Dead people or something." She cannot clarify in her mind exactly what she is sensing.

21:41 The team comes to a fork in the path and decides to ignore the deviation to the left, and to continue straight ahead. They stop to regroup. Dee is facing back down the path to the church when she sees a very definite light come on then go off down by the churchyard gate area. To her mind, it is a torch (or some other kind of technology) and wonders if it's the other team coming back from investigating elsewhere. Steph checks with Bill via radio to verify the other team's location. They are in a valley approximately a quarter-mile away. The light does not reappear and there is no sound of a person walking.

21:44 Heading back up the track towards the hedgerow on the horizon, Dee sees the dark figure again and notes that it is very similar to what she had seen earlier in the churchyard from the car park. She describes it as having stepped out from behind the bulge of a tree to the left and that she

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saw it clearly silhouetted against the lighter sky. It should be noted that the sky on the horizon is very light by comparison to the surrounding trees. Steph is filming at this point, but it emerges that the distance would not be in shot (too far for her infrared).

21:45 Dee thinks she hears a voice (male).

21:46 Dee mentions that it is not at all comfortable. She says 'not evil, just not very happy'.

21:47 As Dee stops and is turning back to face the others, she is startled by a sudden shadow darting between her and Steph. It is 'solid' enough to Dee that she stumbles back and gasps in shock. She is amazed that no one else sees it!

21:50 Dee had just seen the figure bending over. Sarah comments on the word *monk* coming into her head. Straight after this comment, Dee, Sarah, hear a man's *mmmmm*. This is captured on Sarah's camera which was on movie mode.

Several members react to something. To Dee it sounds like male singing. To Sarah C it sounds like a voice and to another it sounds like laughter.

21:51 The team has a discussion about how difficult it is to judge the distances in this location, with the added disadvantage of poor lighting, and decides to return to the churchyard. En route, Marion mentions that she had been 'given' the names *Duckworth, George* and *Mary* at different times during the walk.

21:52 Dee feels that the pace she is walking is 'right'. A slowish stroll. She also gets the impression of the path being "well-trodden".

21:53 About 15 metres from the churchyard gate, Dee gets an impression of 'thieves or something' — like there are thieves nearby; thieves hiding in the vicinity. Dee also remarks that it's interesting how she definitely felt pulled (led) up the path away from the church, but that there seemed to be no resistance to the team coming back down.

21:54 Dee thinks she hears howling. No one else hears dogs barking or howling. Just as she is asking the other team members, she asks Steph if she just said "muck". Steph says she didn't. Dee is confused, as she is sure she heard 'muck' (or similar). She imitates the whispery 'muck', saying it definitely came from next to Steph.

As the team are walking back to the church gate Marion is about 4 metres behind the rest. She is calling out, asking if anyone is there can they please come and let her see them. She feels someone walking beside her on the right and sees a tall slim young man (late teens) with a mop of wavy light brown/fair hair. He's wearing dark cream trousers and a cream big sleeved baggy cotton shirt with a collar. It's not quite tucked into his trousers properly and is flapping about a bit at the back. He says to Marion '*Can I carry your bags for you*' Marion says 'Thank you, that's very kind of you but I'm ok'. He was very well spoken, polite and obviously educated. She feels this is George.

21:57 Sarah notes that on the walk back to the churchyard, Dee mentions the word *muck*, and hears a dog howling, which no-one else hears, but Sarah did hear a sound of some sort far away at the time. After this, on Sarah's camera, a man's voice can be heard humming/singing a few notes like a monk's chant! A note to highlight is that no-one heard it at the time as no comment is made from anyone.

During the walk Steph sees a dark figure.

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Vigil 1: North Gate – 22:02 to 22:18

22:02 The team arrives back at the churchyard and Dee positions herself on the bench near the gate and the first part of the investigation ends.

The team then rested and conducted a quiet vigil at the back of the churchyard, where activity seemed to have stopped. For a plan of the vigil site see page 4.

22:03 Elaine sees a dark shadow between the gravestone and the tree to her left, Elaine asks Dee if she can see it and Dee could not.

22:04 Elaine picks up on the name *Robert*.

22:13 Marion hears a noise to the left side of Elaine who is sitting on the left side of the bench.

Pre-Vigil

22:31 Marion is standing with her back to the field gate and looks over to the graves on her right (just after Bill has taken a group photo) and sees a slim white shape about 1.2 to 1.5 metres tall feeling this is a girl or young woman.

Vigil 2: Back of church – 22:35 to 23:13

For this vigil the team sat in the churchyard to the north of the church. For the vigil site location see the drawing on page 4.

22:37 Noises from inside the church and an owl hooting are heard by Elaine.

Marion asks out to anyone here to talk into her voice recorder. The owl is hooting again.

22:39 The left side of Elaine's face has gone numb.

Marion can smell popcorn.

22:40 Marion gets *Fairies*.

22:41 Clicking noises are heard from inside the church by Elaine.

22:42 Marion gets the old song *We're a couple of swells* and wonders if someone here liked music hall or musicals.

22:44 Elaine hears what sounds like books being dropped from inside the church.

Marion gets the name *Dennis* who used to be called *Dopey Dennis*.

22:47 Marion gets *Amaryllis* and wonders if anyone here liked these beautiful flowers or if it is a girl's name.

22:48 Marion gets *marching round the corner*.

22:49 Marion hears the word '*Don't*' said quite sharply.

22:50 Elaine sees red dots of light above the gravestone by the bush in front of her. At the end of the vigil Elaine goes to have a look at the gravestone to see what the name is and could not find a name anywhere.

22:52 Marion is looking straight ahead at the trees and sees a tall dark shape out of the corner of her eye to her right.

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22:54 Elaine's face feels like it is being tickled.

22:55 Marion gets the name *Julian*.

22:57 Steph hears a strange sound like someone flicking through a book behind her to the right.

22:58 Marion sees dots of white light in various places on the grass in front of her. She sees in her mind the happy smiling face of a black man in front of her waving his hands in the air and saying in a sing song voice '*Lordy Lordy*'. She wonders if this is another reference to music hall as it reminds her of the minstrels. She doesn't think this is a pastor as he's not dressed right.

23:00 Marion gets *disfigurement, shot in the war but made it home* and the name *George*.

Elaine gets the impression of a silver necklace with a man's head on it, the face was long, had a moustache and a helmet like the one on the right.

23:02 Steph sees a long dark shape move quickly past the grave to her left (which was between her and where Marion and Elaine were sitting).



At the end of the vigil Marion decides to take one last photo of the back of the church. She asks if anyone is here can they please show themselves to her. As she takes the photo she sees a tall dark shadow to her right who clearly said to her '*Did you see the face in the window?*' Marion said 'no' out loud as she thinks this is Elaine standing there. It's not Elaine; she is walking back to the gate. When Marion aske Elaine about the face in the window, she has no idea what Marion is talking about. She didn't say it. It wasn't her.

Marion is thinking about the field walk as the 'girls' didn't get to do it. She gets the words *Moonlight Procession* and sees in her mind people walking in white with little lights.

Post Investigation

Marion feels that the large dark shadow seen by some members walking from left to right past the trees by the field gate is the big man sitting on the bench. She also feels that this is the tall shadow to her right when sitting at the back of the church and the person she thought was Elaine. Also the face she sees in the window seems to be a younger version of the man on the bench; the face is the same but a lot younger.

Post-Investigation

Sarah will submit the clips from the walk for analysis at the next review meeting. It was a very good investigation.

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Equipment List

Andy Digital Camcorder: Sony DCR-DVD306E
 Digital Infrared Thermometer: IR-102
 Digital Voice Recorder: Olympus WS-560M
 EMF Detector: K-II
 Notepad, pen, torch and watch

Bill Compass: Silva Type 7 NL
 Datalogger: CEM DT-172
 Digital Camera: GE E1480W
 Digital Infrared Thermometer: Karknee DT-300
 Notepad, pen, torch and watch

Dee Digital Camera: Canon PowerShot A3200 IS
 Digital Voice Recorder: Olympus VN-5500PC
 Notepad, pen, torch and watch

Elaine Digital Camera: Kodak C913
 Digital Voice Recorder: VN-2100PC
 Notepad, pen, torch and watch

Marion Digital Camera: Samsung L313
 Digital Voice Recorder: Olympus VN-2100PC
 Notepad, pen, torch and watch

Richard Digital Camera: General Electric E1486TW
 Digital Voice Recorder: Olympus WS-210S
 Notepad, pen, torch and watch

Sarah C Digital Camera: Sony DSC-H50
 Notepad, pen, torch and watch

Steph Digital Camcorder: Sony DCR-SR75E
 Digital Infrared Thermometer: Tecpel DIT-512
 Gauss Meter
 Video IR Light: Sony HVL-IRM
 Notepad, pen, torch and watch