

## The Hall family tomb



This Grade II listed family tomb commemorates the Halls, a prominent local merchant family. The position of the tomb immediately to the south of the church's west door emphasises their status.

The tomb dates from 1812, when Ann Hall (née Powell), wife of Ambrose Hall, died and was buried. The Halls appear in Burke's *Genealogical and Heraldic History of the Landed Gentry* (1875), where it is noted that the family had a long history connected with the trade and commerce of London, being first recorded in the mid-C16; the family were members of the Drapers' Company. The family were for many years based in Hertfordshire. Ambrose Hall (1739-1815), described as being a merchant of London and of Sutton, was the son of Thomas Hall and his wife Mary, was the daughter of Sir Ambrose Crowley, who traced his lineage back to King Edward I.

Ambrose and Ann Hall were married in 1762, and lived at The Hermitage, Walton-on-the-Hill, as well as in London. They are buried with their son, Humphrey (1763-1848) and his wife Maria Jane (née Nordaby, d 1865), and his son, Ambrose William Hall (d 1897), who was vicar of Longcross in Surrey, before moving to Debden in Essex, and his wife Anne (d 1867).

The tomb is a chest tomb of simple form, with a moulded base and reeded top. The inscriptions are engraved, and original paint, used to highlight these, survives, particularly to the north and east faces. The inscriptions are set within engraved panels, and remain consistent in style, with Roman lettering, over the 85 years during which they were made. The tomb is set on a raised base, and was originally surrounded by railings; the holes for the railings remain in the base.

<p>The inscription on the north face reads:</p> <p>'FAMILY VAULT In affectionate Remembrance of MRS ANN HALL Wife of AMBROSE HALL ESQ of Walton on the Hill in this County and of Albion Street Surrey Road Blest with a fine Understanding and a Heart replete with every Christian Virtue She ended a truly valuable and exemplary Life in this Parish on the 27th of January 1812 Aged 77 Years'.</p>	<p>The inscription on the south face reads:</p> <p>'This Tomb was erected by AMBROSE HALL ESQ of Walton on the Hill and Albion Street, Surrey Road both in this County He departed this life in the 31st Day of December 1815 Aged 77 Years His Remains are here deposited and his Memory will be long held in dutiful and affectionate Remembrance.'</p>
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<p>The inscription on the west face reads:</p> <p>'ANNE HALL HALL wife of the REV.D AMBROSE WILLIAM HALL M.A. Rector of Debden in The County of Essex Died April 17TH 1867 Aged 51 Years</p> <p>Also the Rev.D AMBROSE WILLIAM HALL M.A. sometime Vicar of Longcross in this County and Rector of Debden in the County of Essex Died April 2ND 1897 Aged 83 Years'.</p>	<p>The inscription on the east face reads:</p> <p>'SACRED to the Memory of HUMPHREY HALL ESQre of the Hermitage Walton on the Hill, Surrey who departed this life on the 24 of August 1848 in the [...] of his Age. [...] MARIA JANE [...].'</p>
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