

# History: KS2

## Histories in the Headstones



### Thomas Rhodes: Died May 23<sup>rd</sup> 1906 aged 78

On the 1881 census Thomas Rhodes is listed as a “bucket maker”. He was in fact a pioneer of local industry. He began his business in Lye in 1856 when he founded the Providential Works. By 1894 he employed over 150 people. Among the items produced were baths, bowls, basins, beer cans and buckets!

The Rhodes Buildings in Lye High Street carry two plaques bearing the inscriptions “Diligent in Business” and “Be not Slothful”. These words sum up Thomas' life as he served the church as well as he served industry.

Thomas Rhodes' gravestone is one of the most impressive in the cemetery. It takes the form of an anchor set into rocks with a cross on top wrapped in chain.

### Research Questions:

1. Look at the 1911 census return for Mr Rhodes. What was his address?

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2. Can you find this address on a current map? Can you find the address on an historic map dating from around that year?

3. What does the phrase “Be not Slothful” mean?

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4. What could the rocks, anchor and chain on his gravestone symbolise?

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