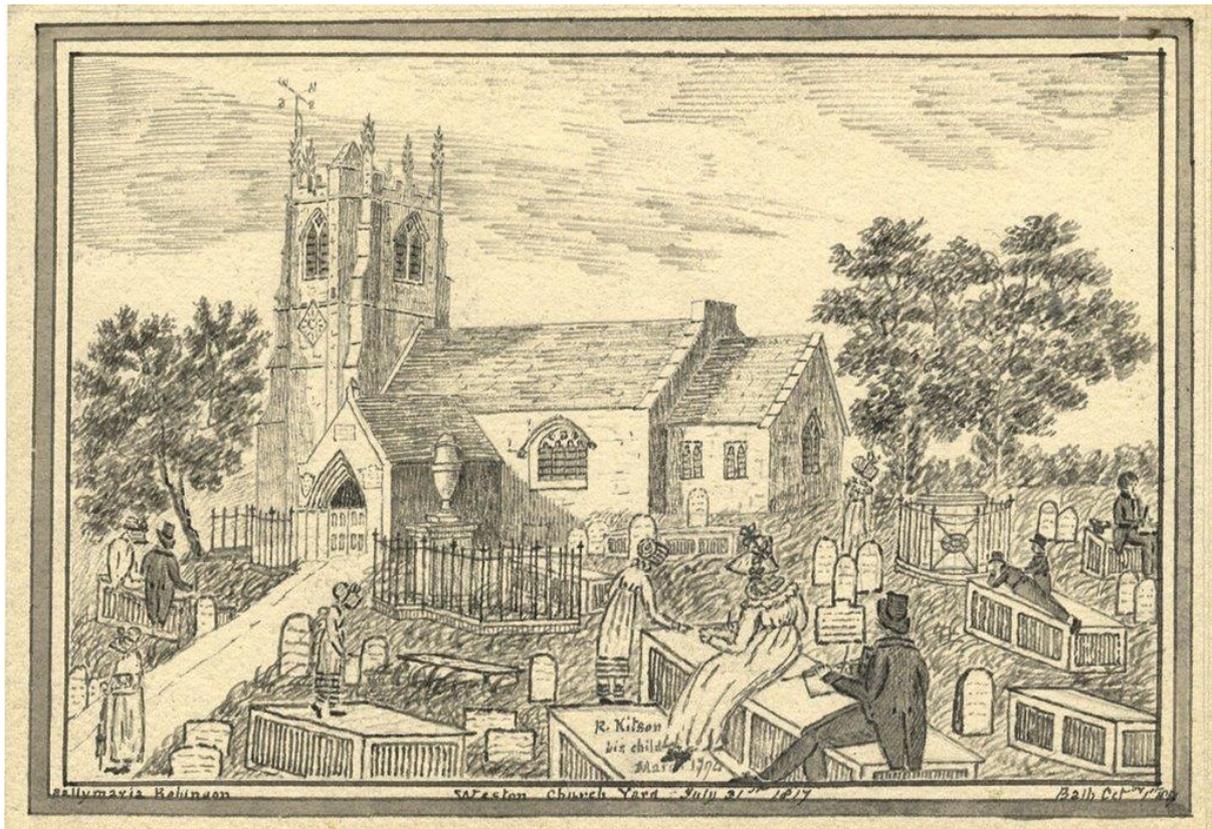


## CHURCHYARD FROLICS



**Sally Maria Robinson. Pencil and watercolour on paper. (14.7 X 21 cms). 1817.**

This intriguing little drawing was bought by the Friends for the Victoria Art Gallery topographical collection and reminds us of three important Bath architects.

Its significance lies in that it depicts Weston village church before the major alterations of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The tower is now the only major original part to survive and dates from the 15<sup>th</sup> century. The nave was completely rebuilt by John Pinch the younger in 1830. The Pinches were the estate architects for Lord Darlington and were responsible for designing or approving the lovely villas and terraces of Bathwick Hill and Sydney Place and for Cavendish Crescent. The Pinch family tombs are in St. Mary's churchyard next to The Cleveland Bridge.

The tombs of the architects Thomas Baldwin, responsible for the Guildhall and Great Pulteney Street and Thomas Warr Atwood, who was involved in building The Paragon and who was killed when a building collapsed during the preparatory demolitions for the Guildhall, are both amongst those shown in the Weston churchyard.

The significance of the elegant Regency company disporting themselves irreverently on the tombs is as mysterious as their antics are amusing and why the late R Kitson and child should be singled out for mention is unknown. The artist is clearly an amateur and seems to be unrecorded but she has left us a naïve and entertaining but priceless record of the old church.