Did You Know? An Anglican Glossary

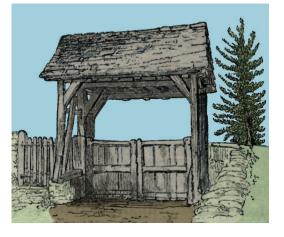
Lych-Gate

(From the Anglo-Saxon lich, a corpse+gate.)

The lych-gate or litchgate is usually found at the entrance to churchyard. There, the corpse bearers are met by the priest, or simply stop under the roof for a prayer before proceeding to the grave.

In some places in England, the term also referred to the path of the funeral procession.

A number of litchgates remain in England, and there is a beautiful one at the church of St. James the Less, a National Historic Landmark, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.



Garsington, Oxfordshire

In the "Order for the Burial of the Dead" the Priest and clerks meet the body at the entrance to the Churchyard, either before going into the church or directly to the grave.