

YCCCART 2024/Y6

Parish Church of St. John the Baptist, Churchill

Part 1: Inside the Church: The Nave, Aisles and Chancel

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Early 20th century postcard.

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Introduction

Over the past few years because of covid and other factors YCCCART members have undertaken documentary and photographic research into several local churches. Reports (available online at www.ycccart.co.uk) have been produced on churches at Puxton, Kenn, Kingston Seymour, Yatton and Wick St Lawrence.

Acknowledgement

In respect of the Church of St John the Baptist, Churchill, I would like to thank the following: Tricia Avery, churchwarden, for taking time to let us enter the church and for information; YCCCART members John Wilcox, David Long and Keith Taylor for photographs and invaluable assistance and Vince Russett for inspiring this project, assistance, and final editing.

Site Location



Fig 1: Location.

The church is off Church Lane Churchill (see star in image above).

The National Grid Reference is ST 43729 60239.

The church is closed but there are telephone numbers on the notice board should entry be required.

Historical & Archaeological Context

Early archaeology

Although Churchill contains both the large hill fort at Dolebury, and a smaller earthwork 'Dinghurst Camp', which has its inside almost completely quarried away, leaving the external bank (Richards, C. *pers comm*), little else of prehistoric date (unless the enigmatic double-banked earthwork on Windmill Hill (North Somerset HER MNS395) be so) is known: similarly, Roman sites are confined to a coin hoard from a cave and a single coin find from Sandford Hill (North Somerset HER). Given the density of prehistoric and Roman occupation in the area generally, this probably results from the lack of any formal parish survey, and the consequent lack of academic interest and fieldwork in the parish.

Churchill does not seem to be referred to in national sources until 1201 (Ekwall 1981), although it was clearly part of the great manor of Banwell: the 1068 charter bounds of that manor include at least three 'points' (*Cyng Roda*, now King Road; *Wrinnaest Straeme* (the East Wrinn, now part of the Congresbury Yeo SE of Iwood; *Hyls Broc*, now the Hunter's Brook, running from the *Eaa Willme* (the large spring) at Springhead Farm, south of the Bath Road) which are on the north-east section of the modern Churchill boundary. The charter also includes '*eall abutan Losa Leh*' (all around ?Mendip Lodge Wood as the modern boundary runs) and then '*swa west on thone Combe...to Bibriddcge.*' (along the combe west to the place by the bridge). The southeastern areas on this boundary are confirmed by the 904 charter of Wrington. (Neale 1969; Rippon 2006).

Its placename seems to be from *OE* cirichyll = 'hill with a church', although the involvement of the *OBrit* 'cruc' = 'hill' cannot be ignored: the generally flatter topography of Churchill compared to the adjacent Mendip should rule this out; however, the inclusion of the spectacular hill fort of Dolebury within the parish, visibly on a 'hill', may reinforce the idea (Ekwall, *ibid*).

Thorn and Thorn (1980) have argued that the 5.5 hides of 'Ralph Crooked hands' in Domesday were Churchill and Stock, which may be the earliest record of what later became the parish.

The field to the north of the parish church is referred to in the North Somerset HER as a possible deserted medieval settlement (MNS384).

Later history

Churchill is not listed in Domesday since it was at the time part of the vast manor of Banwell and there is uncertainty about the origins of the church.

Hodges (1994) refers to a chapel on the site in 1180s, which may have been built by the Augustine canons of Bruton Priory, and that in 1180 Robert, Chaplain of Churchill

was presented by the Prior and Cannons of Bruton Priory. Robert is the first name on the Vicars Chaplains and Curates list on the wall in the south aisle of the church. (See page 22).

The parish was, according to Hodges, therefore formed in the 12th century

Knight (1915), records that the first mention of Churchill is in 'an award made in 1231, by Bishop Jocelyn, concerning the chapel of Churchill (Bruton Cartulary. Deed 114). The same document names Robert Fitzpayne and John de la Stocke as local landowners of the period. A Roger Fitzpayne is mentioned in an account of an action at law, dated 1276' concerning a house or holding in Churchill.'

Until 1447 a Fitzpayne owned a part of the parish when John Austell sold to John Tretheke the manor which Alice Beaumont, wife of John Fitzpayne, held for her life.

John Tretheke passed the property to a daughter, and from her to her husband, Sir Nicholas St. Lowe.

Nicholas was succeeded by his son Sir John St. Lo, whose son Sir William sold to Ralph Jenyns the manors of Puxton, Churchill and Edingworth.

Jenyns is depicted on the brass which lies in the south aisle of the church.

Ralph was the grandfather of Sarah first Duchess of Marlborough who was an ancestor of the famous Sir Winston Churchill.

Ralph Jenyns's great-grandson Richard sold Churchill in 1652 to John Churchill, who was knighted in 1670, made Recorder of Bristol in 1682, created Master of the Rolls and elected Member of Parliament for Bristol in 1685.

John Churchill died in 1685 and the estate was sold out of the family.

Banwell Priory (renamed Abbey) was surrendered to King Henry VIII in 1539 upon the dissolution of the monasteries. The church of St John, with Banwell and Puxton, was given to the Bishop of Bristol, in whose patronage it remains.

The Churchill Commonwealth curate was ejected from his living in 1663 and replaced by an Anglican. During the 1750s the Churchill vicar held several livings and so for less than £16 per year he placed a curate at Churchill.

In 1960 the parish was united with part of Winscombe parish (Sandford) and with Burrington in 1978. The parish was then spilt again in the late 1990's to be Churchill and Langford. Then in 2024 Churchill Parish moved into the Benefice of Winscombe and Sandford with Churchill.

Saint John the Baptist church was largely rebuilt in the C14 and C15 centuries and restored 1879-80 by Ewan Christian.

The church is a Grade 1 Listed Building.

Plan of the Church

Not to scale.

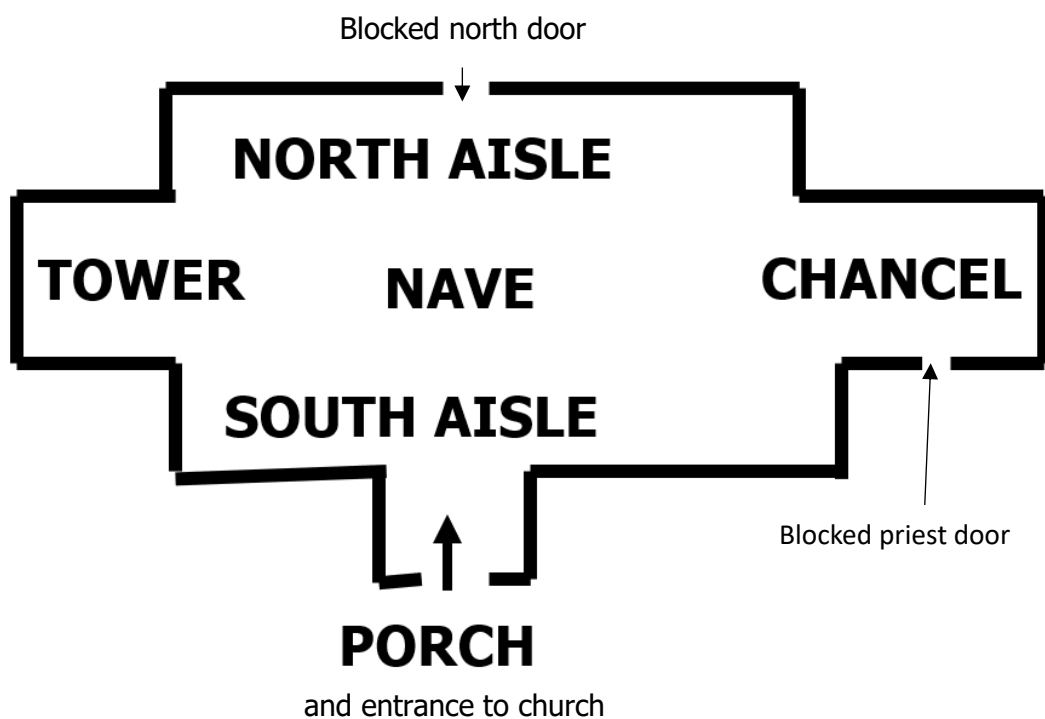


Fig 2: Plan of church.

The Nave, Aisles and Chancel

Entering the church by the south porch note the graffiti on the east jamb.

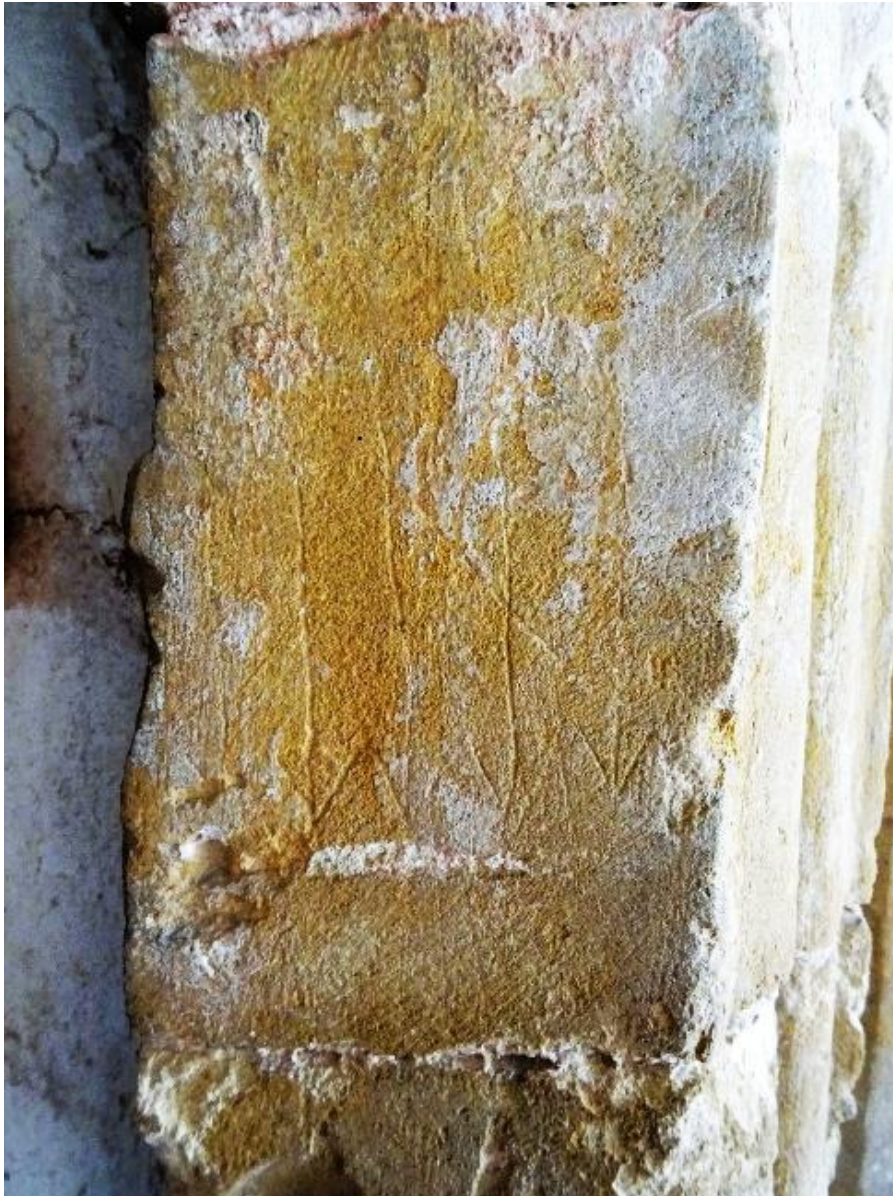


Fig 3: East jamb of south door.

Lines and cross Vs.

Cross Vs are said to indicate protection marks against the devil / evil.

The South Aisle

A narrow south aisle was built in about 1280. This may have been constructed by Sir Roger Fitzpayne to provide a mortuary chapel at its east end. A squint or hagioscope was included to allow a view of the main altar which was later moved further east (explaining why you can't see it looking down the squint today).



Fig 4: The squint.



Southern wall

A piscina survives from the early aisle. This is a cusped spheric triangle dating to c. 1290-1320.

Fig 5: The piscina.



Fig 6: South aisle looking east.

About 1390 it is said a wider and higher aisle was constructed with larger windows,



Fig 7: The arms of Churchill.

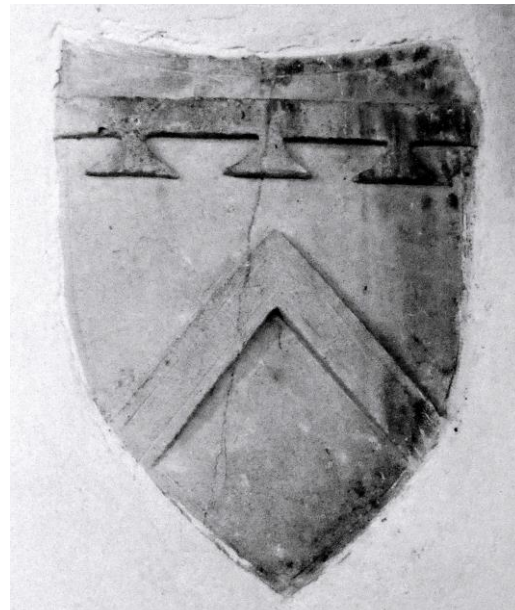


Fig 8: The arms of Prideaux.

On the east wall are two shields.

Collinson records that

"...on the wall are sculptured the arms of Churchill, viz. a lion rampant debruised with a bendlet, as also those of Prideaux, viz. a chevron, in chief a label of three points."

The church guide records:

"On the east wall of the south aisle are two stone shields, one showing the arms of Sir John Churchill who died in 1685 and was buried in the aisle, the other showing the arms of Susanna Prideaux his wife who died in 1702. Above these used to hang pieces of the armour of Sir John which had been removed from Churchill Court for safe keeping; they were stolen in 1968. This and other larceny and vandalism has meant that the church is now locked."



Fig 9: Brass on floor by east window.

Collinson records:

'On a blue stone in the floor are the portraitures in brass of a man and woman, and the following inscription:

'here lyeth Raphe Jenkins esquier, which dyed the x day of Apryll in the yere of our Lord mccccclxxii, and was buried the xvii day of the same moneth, leaving behynd him Joane his wyffe, and having by her viii chyltren, that ys to wite, fyve sonnes and three doughters'

Underneath are the effigies of these children, and about the stone several shields with arms, some of which are effaced. Among those that remain intelligible are: On a chevron three lions rampant. Quarterly, 1 On a fesse three bezants. 2. A bull's head erased. 3. Two bars charged with three martlets each. 4. As the first.'

The church guide records:

'On the floor of the south aisle, at its east end, a 'brass' made of latten (an alloy of copper and zinc) shows the effigies of Raphe Jenyns and his wife Jhane. Raphe bought the manor of Churchill from Sir William St. Loe in 1563 because Sir William's wife, Bess of Hardwick, persuaded him to sell the manor and to give her the money. The inscription in modern spelling reads:

Here lieth Raphe Jenyns Esquire, which died 10th April in the year of our Lord God 1572 and was buried 17th day of the same month, leaving behind him Jane his wife; and having by her eight children that is to whit five sons and three daughters.

Dr. Walker records that the brass was unsatisfactorily repaired in 1932 but it was restored again in 1949.'



Fig 10: The brass.

Knight (1915) records that:

'The effect of the whole monument has been injured by the intrusion of a small eighteenth century gravestone, now much broken, which has destroyed the effigies of the children (there in Collinsons time) - and three armorial shields; and an Attempt has been made to move the principal brass bodily from its place.'



Fig 11: The broken 18th century tomb slab under the chair beside the Jenyns "brass".

The inscription reads:

'IOHN RICHARDSON Ob^t

Aug 31 AD 1790 Aetat 78

CHRISTIAN his Wife Daugh^r

of the Rev^d *BENJAMIN HANCOCK*

Uphill) died April 28 1797

aged 78'

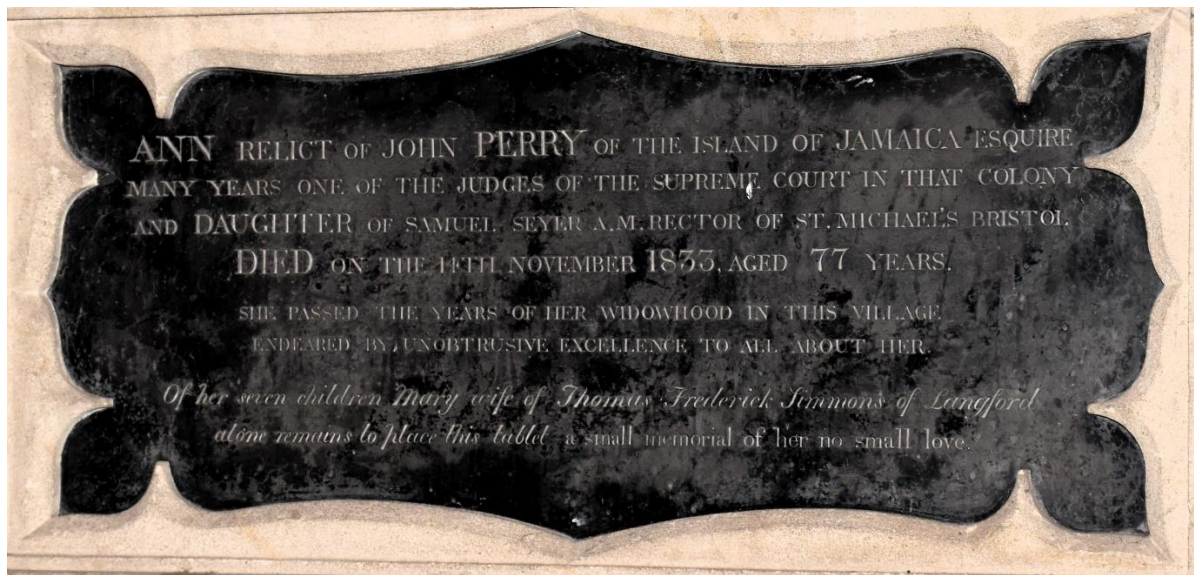


Fig 12: Plaque under the window on the east wall.

The inscription reads:

ANN RELICT OF JOHN PERRY OF THE ISLAND OF JAMAICA ESQUIRE
 MANY YEARS ONE OF THE JUDGES OF THE SUPREME COURT IN THAT COLONY
 AND DAUGHTER OF SAMUEL SEYER A.M. RECTOR OF ST. MICHAEL'S BRISTOL
 DIED ON THE 14TH NOVEMBER 1833, AGED 77 YEARS.
 SHE PASSED THE YEARS OF HER WIDOWHOOD IN THIS VILLAGE
 EMDEARED BY UNOBTRUSIVE EXCELLENCE TO ALL ABOUT HER.
*Of her seven children Mary wife of Thomas Frederick Simmons of Langford
 alone remains to place this tablet a small memorial of her no small love.*



Fig 13: The east window.

The inscription at the bottom of the window reads:

To the Glory of God	James Grant Esq of the	And Ann Elizabeth his Wife
and in Memory of	Island of St Vincent died 1837	died at Langford 1861

South wall south aisle



Fig 14: The east side of the south wall.

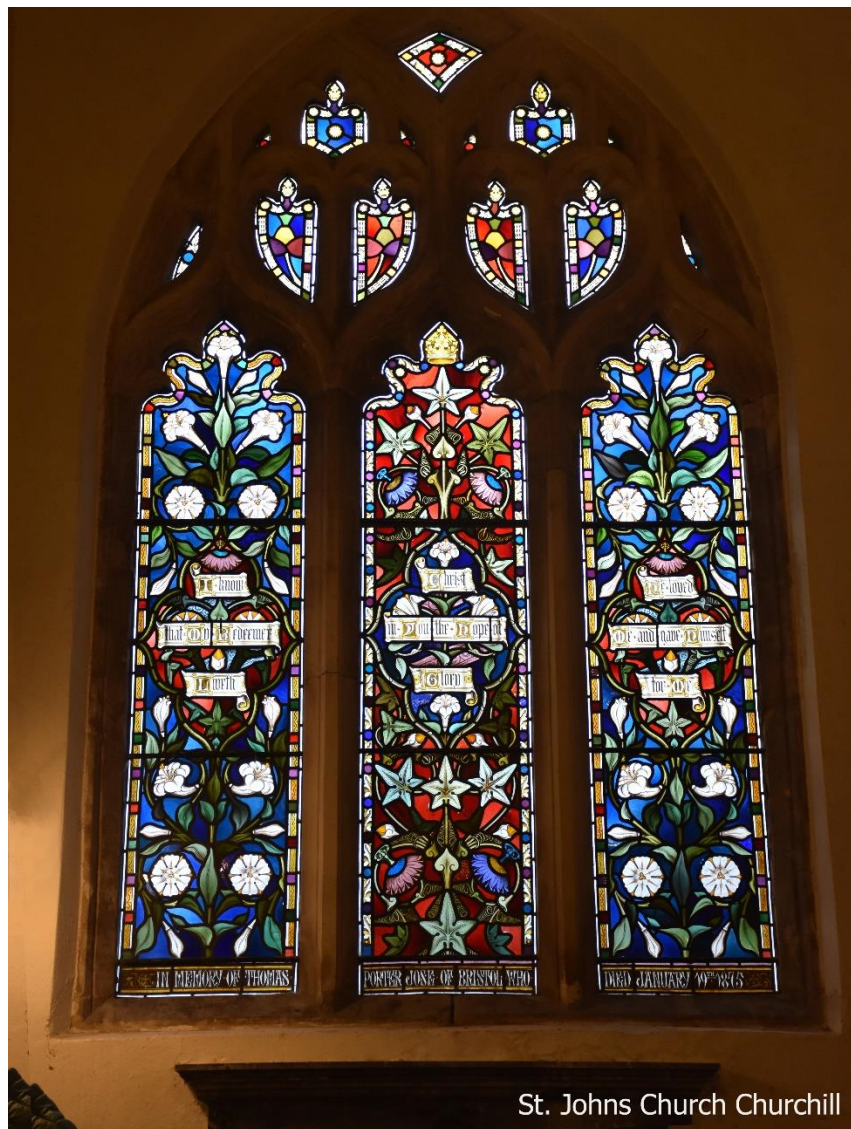


Fig 15: Far east south wall window.



Fig 16: The inscription at the bottom of the window.

Sanctus	Egidius	King	Alfred	Bede	Venerabilis
In memoriam	John Allen Giles	DCL of Churchill Court	Rector of Sutton Surrey		



St. Johns Church Churchill

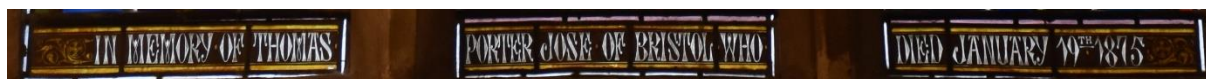


Fig 17: Middle window on south wall and inscription.

The inscription reads:

IN MEMORY OF THOMAS PORTER JOSE OF BRISTOL WHO DIED JANUARY 19TH
1875

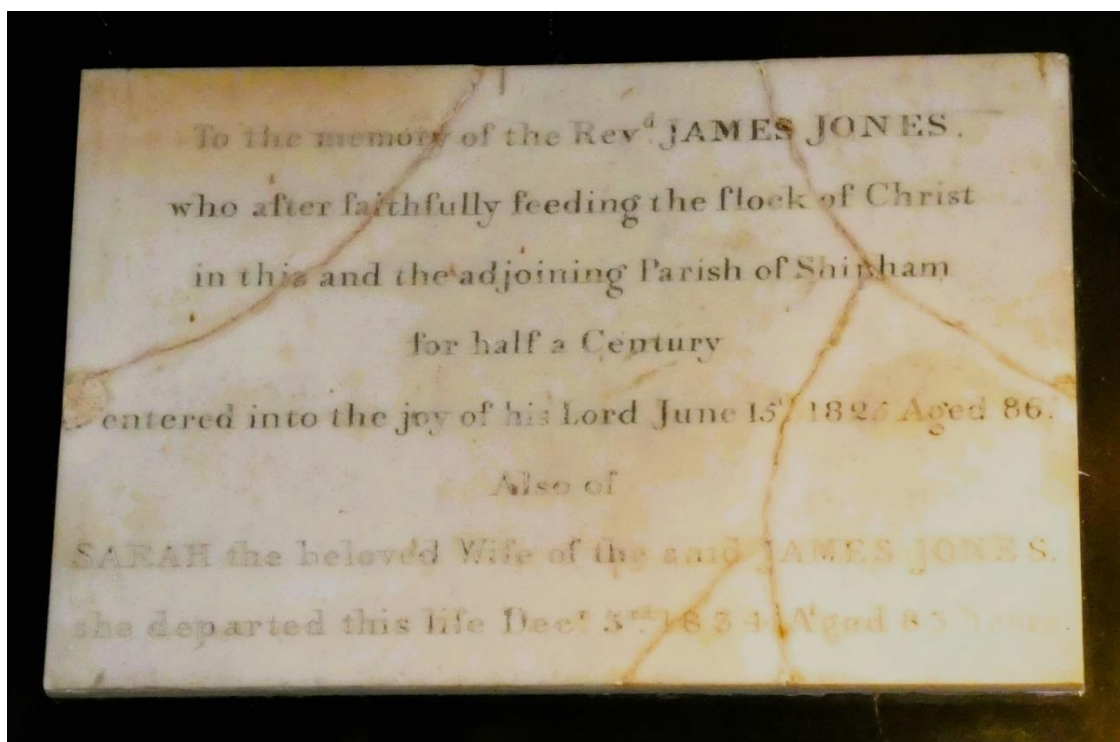


Fig 18: Memorial to the Rev^d James Jones.

Left of the window is a memorial with the following inscription:

To the memory of the Rev^d **JAMES JONES**
 who after faithfully feeding the flock of Christ
 in this and the adjoining Parish of Shiphham
 for half a Century
 entered into the joy of his Lord June 15th 1825, Aged
 86
 Also of
 SARAH the beloved Wife of the said JAMES JONES
 she departed this life Dec^r 3rd 1834 Aged 83

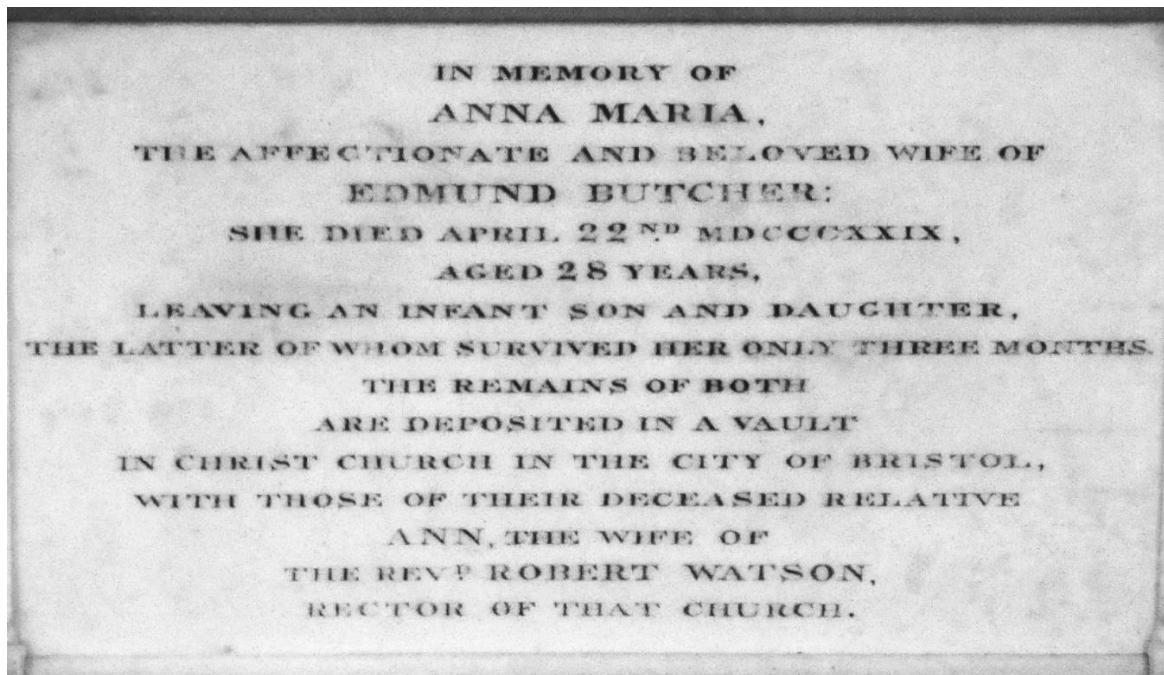


Fig 19: Memorial to Anna Butcher.

This memorial with the inscription below is right of the window.

IN MEMORY OF
ANNA MARIA.
THE AFFECTIONATE AND BELOVED WIFE OF
EDMUND BUTCHER
SHE DIED APRIL 22ND MDCCCXXIX.
AGED 28 YEARS
LEAVING AN INFANT SON AND DAUGHTER.
THE LATTER OF WHOM SURVIVED HER ONLY THREE MONTHS
THE REMAINS OF BOTH
ARE DEPOSITED IN A VAULT
IN CHRIST CHURCH IN THE CITY OF BRISTOL,
WITH THOSE OF THEIR DECEASED RELATIVE
ANN THE WIFE OF
THE REV^D ROBERT WATSON
RECTOR OF THAT CHURCH.



Fig 20: Memorial to William Cloete.

Below this is a brass memorial to William Cloete with the inscription:

Sacred

To the beloved memory of

WILLIAM DUNDAS CLOETE

2nd son of Chief Justice Cloete Cape Town

Died suddenly Feb 10th 1891 Aged 61

Buried at Monaco

Be ye therefore ready also for the Son of Man

commeth at an hour when ye think not

Below the window is a First World War memorial.

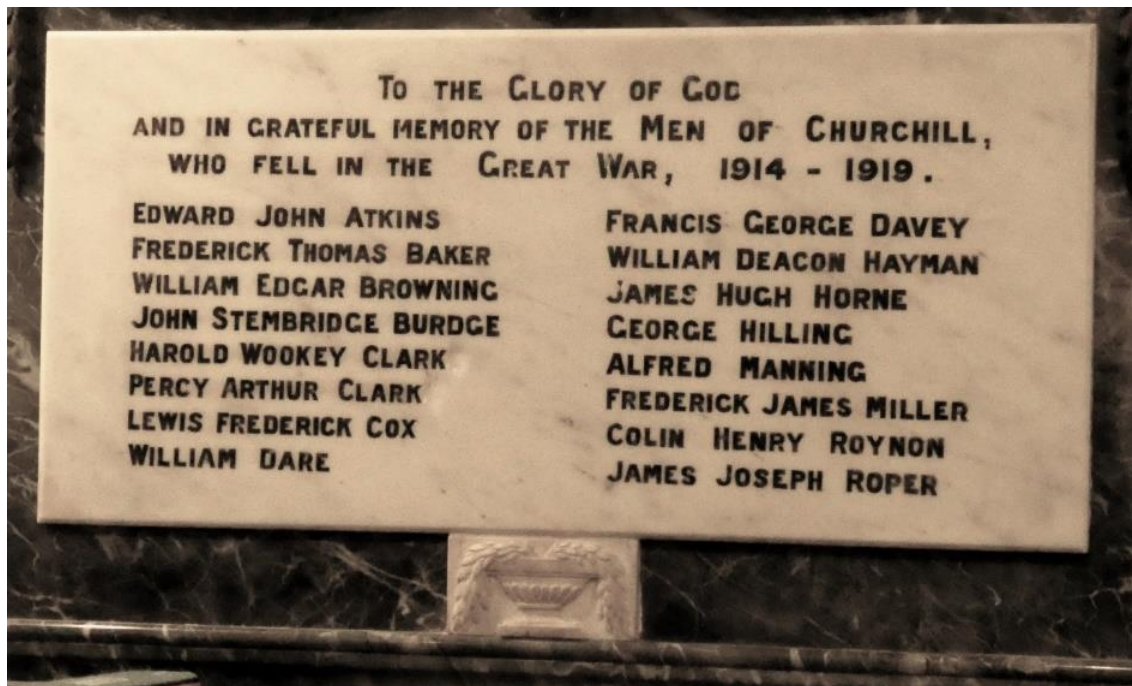


Fig 21: Great War memorial.

Also a brass memorial to Elizabeth Somers.

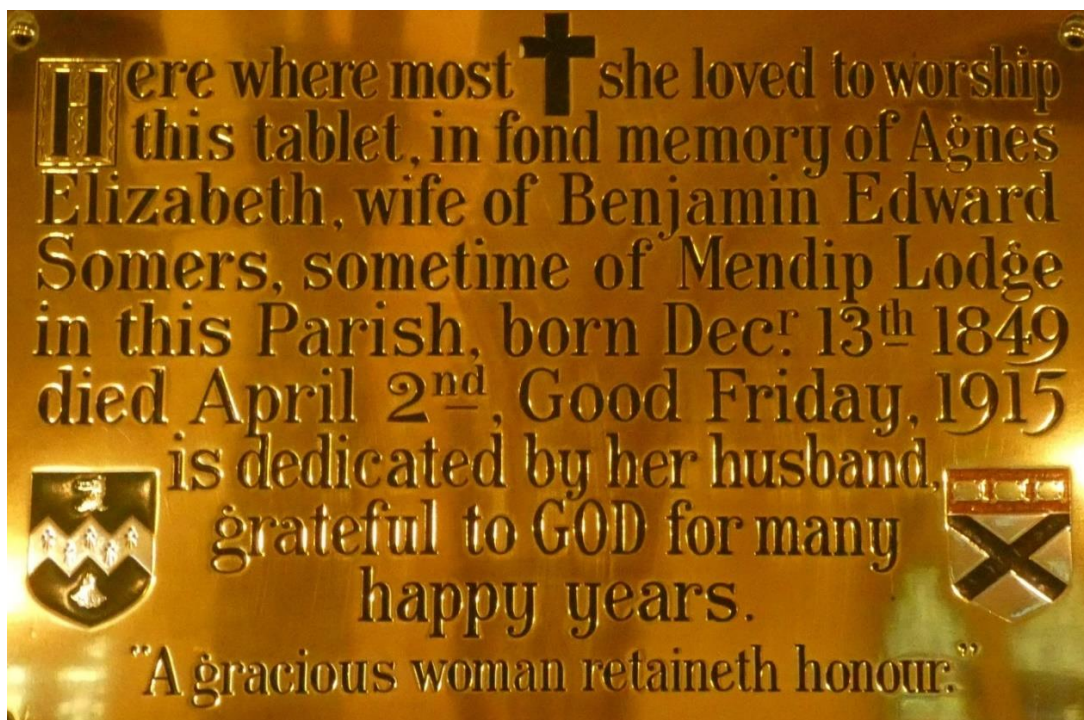


Fig 22: Memorial to Elizabeth Somers.

Vicars Chaplains and Curates of
St John The Baptist Church, Churchill

1180 Robert	1693 Thomas Walier
1341 William Acquitator	1708 Harry Hill
John Cocking	1712 Thomas Ford
1411 John Wariner	1735 John Taylor
1444 John Guernsey	1736 John Markham
1449 Williams Peryn	1747 Blinman Gresley
1450 Richard Warwyck	1773 Samuel Love
1459 Thomas Been	1773 James Jones
1465 David Frampton	1774 Thomas Robins
1482 Thomas Barrett	1790 Walter Chapman
1489 Thomas Wodyngton	1799 William Bartlett
1494 Robert Assheton	1804 John Manly
1499 Robert Maynston	1819 Richard Davis
1503 Thomas Bowden	1832 Richard Lambert
1504 John Spire	1840 William Archer
1510 Oliver Brown	1872 Stephen Jose
1530 William Bishop	1916 Joseph Pratt
1541 Thomas Webbe	1933 James Taylor
1554 Thomas Sylke	1946 Samuel Shipley
1557 Hugh Jones	1948 Robert Pagett
1584 Edward Doughtie	1957 William Bromham
1596 Samuel Pettingal	1965 Ernest Green
1609 William Tegge	1982 Henry Andrewes Uthwatt
1612 Thomas Woodeott	1991 John Abdy
1621 Michael Barrer	2007 Leigh Machel
1634 Richard Camplin	2011 Kate Sax
1640 John Earle	
1658 James Longman	
1663 Felix Fenner	
1687 John Wrentmore	
1691 John Wigglesworth	

Fig 23: List of Vicars, Chaplains and Curates beside south door.

Beside the door is a list of Vicars, Chaplains and Curates.



Fig 24: The picture above the south door and right a close up of the door.

The oak plank door is 19th century.



Fig 25: The Last Supper.

Over the south door is a picture of the Last Supper said to be by John Simmons after an earlier one in Antwerp and dating to 1767.

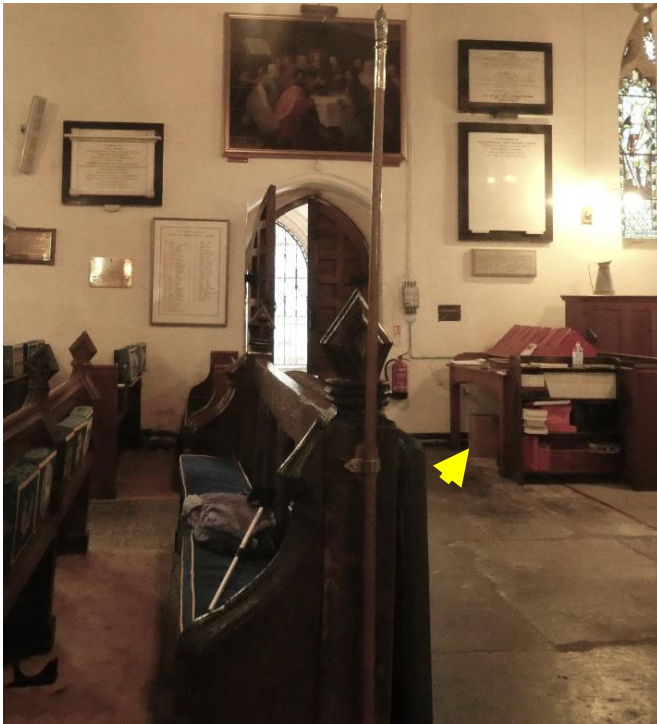


Fig 26: Location of Fisher plaque indicated by yellow arrow.

To right of the door (See Fig 26 above) is the plaque below.



Fig 27: Fisher plaque.

Immediately west of the door are the following plaques.

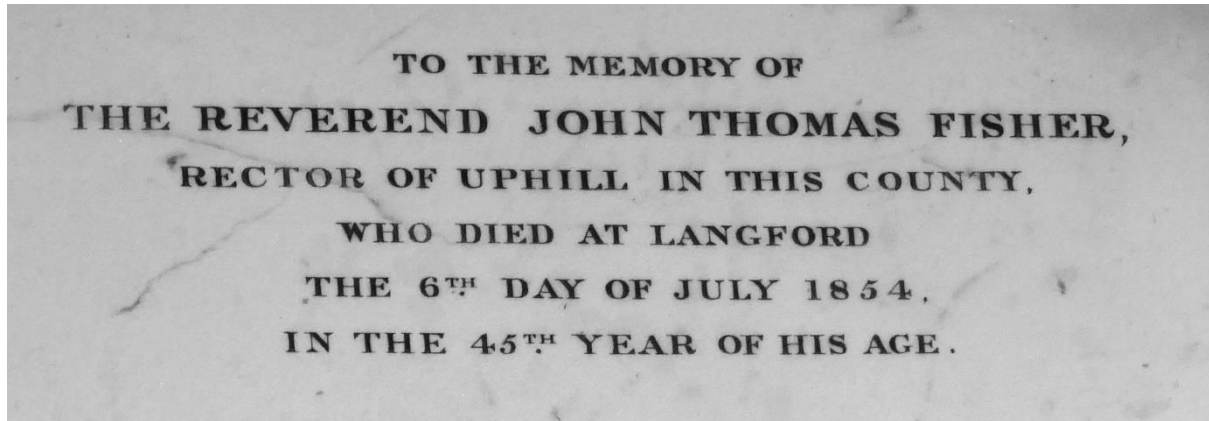


Fig 28: Memorial to the Reverend John Thomas Fisher.

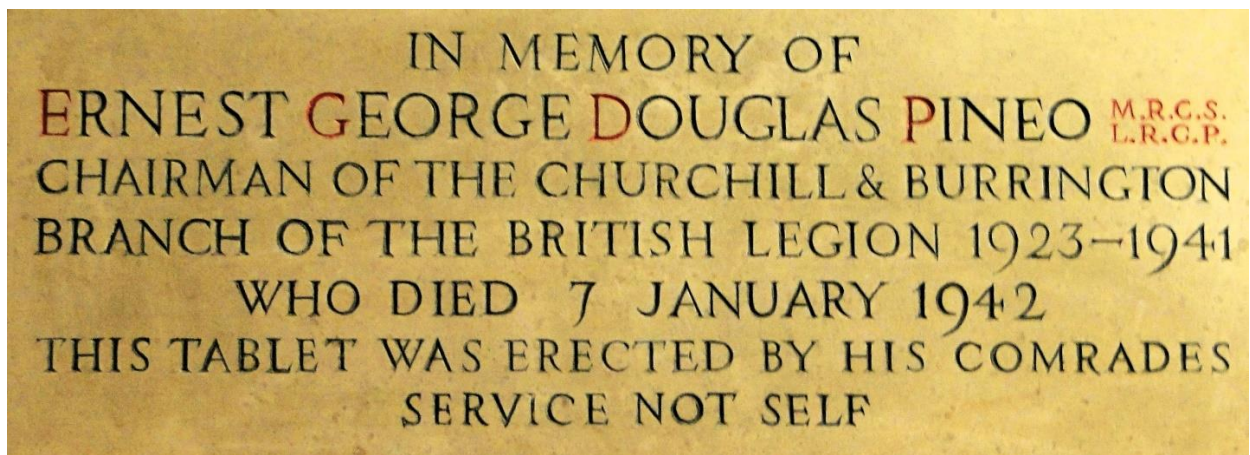


Fig 29: Memorial to Ernest Pineo.

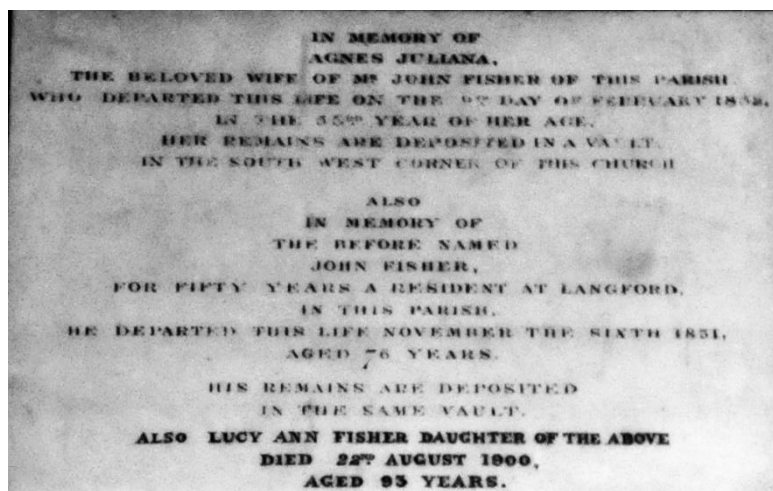


Fig 30: Memorial to Agnes Fisher.

The inscription reads:

IN MEMORY OF
 AGNES JULIANA.
 THE BELOVED WIFE OF MR JOHN FISHER OF THIS PARISH
 WHO DEPARTED THIS LIFE ON THE 27 DAY OF FEBRUARY
 1832
 IN THE 53rd YEAR OF HER AGE
 HER REMAINS ARE DEPOSITED IN A VAULT
 IN THE SOUTH WEST CORNER OF THIS CHURCH
 ALSO IN MEMORY OF
 THE BEFORE NAMED
 JOHN FISHER
 FOR FIFTY YEARS A RESIDENT AT LANGFORD
 IN THIS PARISH
 HE DEPARTED THIS LIFE NOVEMBER THE SIXTH 1831
 AGED 76 YEARS
 HIS REMAINS ARE DEPOSITED
 IN THE SAME VAULT
ALSO LUCY ANN FISHER DAUGHTER OF THE ABOVE
DIED 22ND AUGUST 1900
AGED 93 YEARS



Fig 31: Window south wall far west.



Fig 32: Window inscription.

The text reads:

King Ina

S^t Dunstan

S^t Joseph

of
Arimathea

To the GLORY OF GOD This window is given by Richard Purvis 1968



St. Johns Church Churchill

Fig 33: Model of the church below window.



Fig 34: South aisle west window and left-hand inscription.



Fig 35: Central inscription.

Records show that Alfred Angelo Simmons was involved in the British East India campaigns and was killed in action at Ferozeshah on 21st December 1845 aged 23 years. The Battle of Ferozeshah was fought on the 21 December and 22 December 1845 between the British East India Company and the Sikh Empire, at the village of Ferozeshah in Punjab, India.



Fig 36: Right inscription

Willam Henry More Simmons died on the 18th September 1847, aged 27.

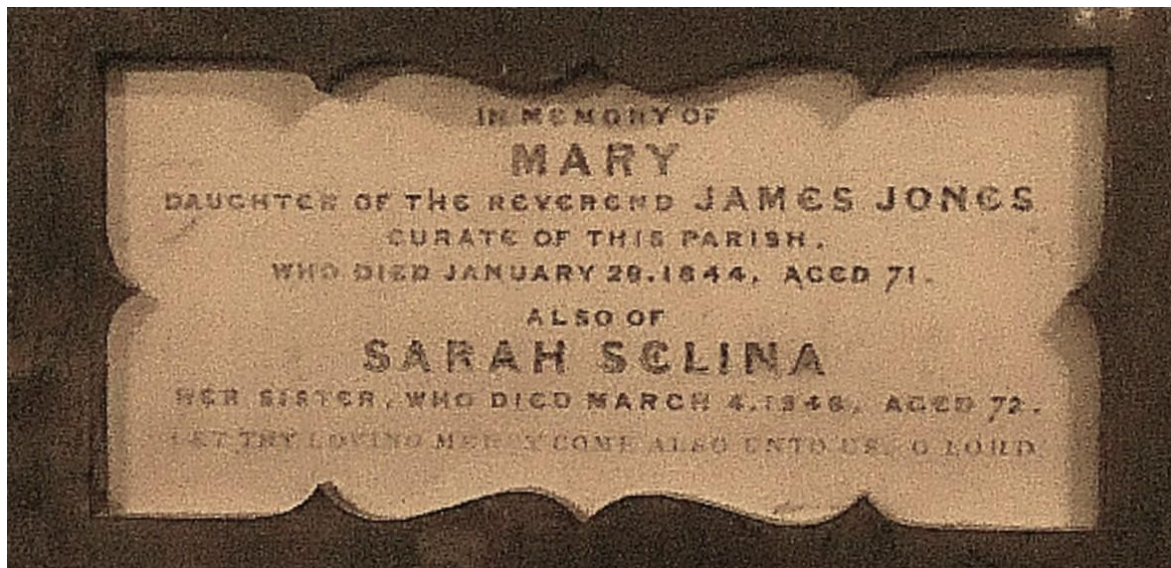


Fig 37: Memorial to Mary Jones and Sarah Selina.

IN MEMORY OF
MARY
DAUGHTER OF THE REVEREND JAMES JONES
CURATE OF THIS PARISH,
WHO DIED JANUARY 28. 1844, AGED 71.
ALSO OF
SARAH SELINA
HER SISTER, WHO DIED MARCH 4, 1848, AGED 72.
LET THY LOVING MERCY COME ALSO UNTO US O LORD



Fig 38: Memorial slabs – south aisle.

Three memorial slabs line the south aisle floor.

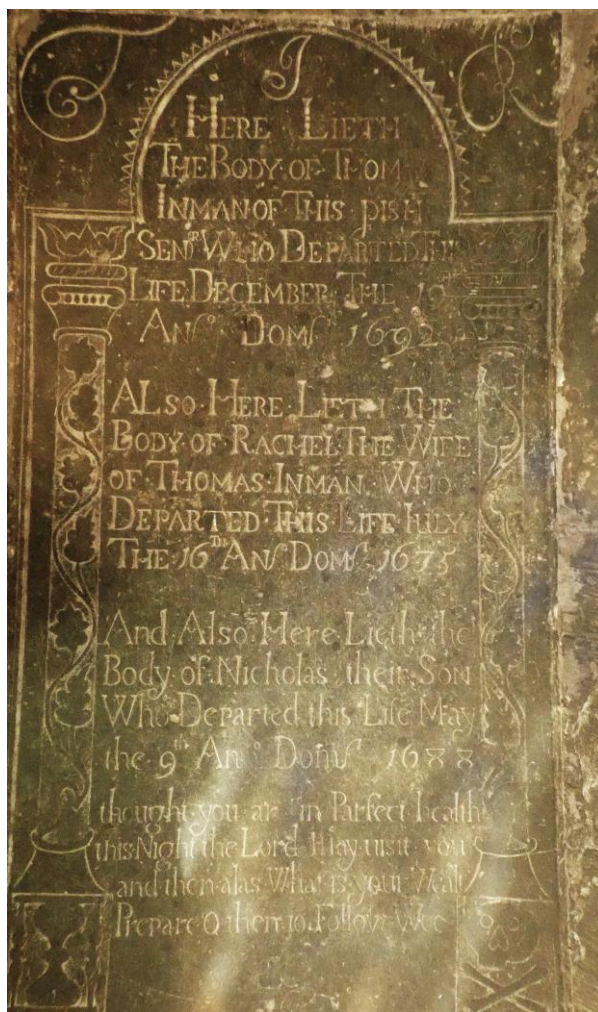


Fig 39: Memorial to Thomas Inman.

'HERE LIETH
THE BODY OF THOMAS
INMAN OF THIS PISH
SENR WHO DEPARTED THIS
LIFE DECEMBER THE 19TH
'AN/O DOM/NI 1692

ALSO HERE LIETH THE
BODY OF RACHEL THE WIFE
OF THOMAS INMAN WHO
DEPARTED THIS LIFE JULY
THE 16TH AN/O DOM/I

And Also Here Lieth the
Body of Nicholas their Son
Who Departed Life May
the 9th AN/O DOM/I 1688

Though you are in Perfect health
this Night the Lord may visit you
and then alas What is your Weal
Prepare O then to follow Wee



*Fig 40: Memorial to
Arthur Rayson.*

IN MEMORY
OF ARTHUR
RAYSON WHO DEPARTD
THIS LIFE FEBRUARY
THE 25th 1713 AGED
37 YEARS
My deareft friends prepare
To follow me. As I am
Now ere long so fhall you
Be, Tho for a space death
Makes a separation yet
Shall we meet again with
Consolation



Fig 41: Memorial to Elizabeth and Hannah Cook.

HERE LYETH THE BODY OF
 ELIZABETH COOK OF THIS
 PARISH WID FORMERLY WIFE
 VITO HEIRY LEWIS OF THIS
 PARISH GENT: AND AFTERWARD
 WIFE OF IOSEPH COOKE OF
 THIS PARISH GENT WHO DE
 PARTED HIS LIFE THE 25TH DAY OF
 FEBRVARY ANNO DOMINI 1676
 HEARE ALSO LYETH THE BODY OF
 HANNAH THE WIFE OF RICHARD
 COOKE OF THIS PARISH GENT
 DAUGHTER OF THE ABOVE NAM
 ED HEIRY AND ELIZABETH
 WHODEPARTED HIS LIFE THE 9TH
 DAY OF SEPTEMBER ANNO
 DOMINI 1677

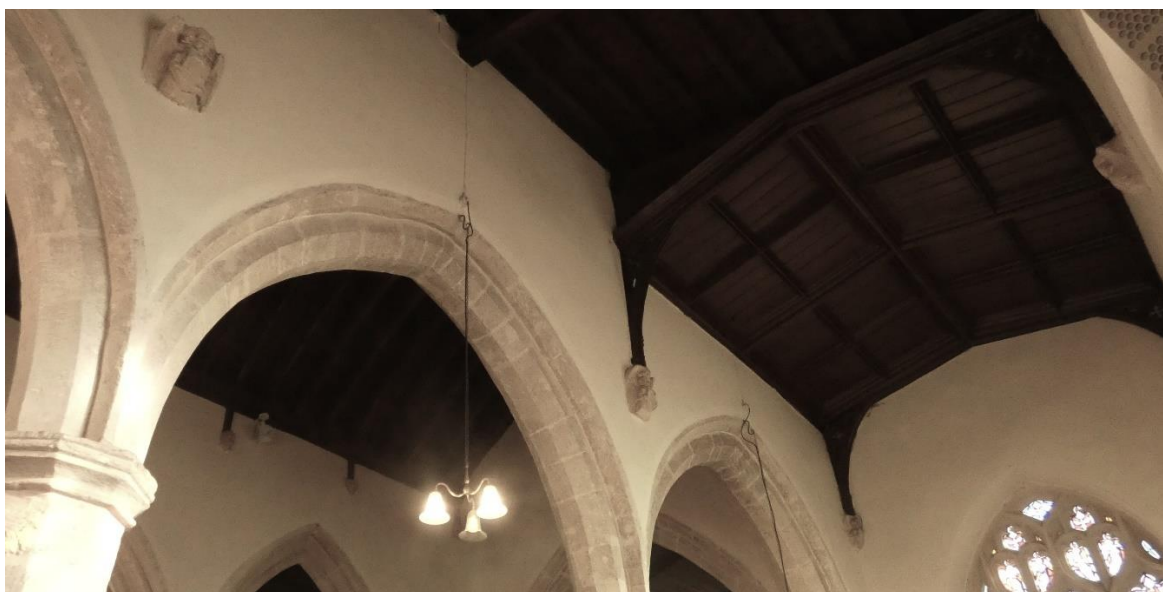


Fig 42: The south aisle oak and deal roof. Note the corbels beneath the roof and above the arches.



Fig 43: South aisle corbels.

The church guide states the corbels are:

"carved with angels whose shields show the Crown of Thorns, the Pincers, the Seamless Garment, and the Spear crossed with the Reed bearing the Sponge."

(All symbols of what happened to Christ on the way to Calvary – 'Christ's Passion')

The Nave



Fig 44: Font and hood.

Historic England refers to a "*C13 font bowl with C19 cover*".

The church guide states that the present font is a survivor of the Norman chapel, though its oak cover was installed in 1879/80. The Norman date is also given by Pevsner who describes its plain tub shape and thick mouldings.



Fig 45: Benches in the nave.

Pevsner dates the oak benches as "Perhaps c16 or c17, with ogee tops and foliage carving."

The nave benches were repaired or renewed in 1736, 1879 and 1968, with some rearrangement in 1978.



Fig 46: Close up of bench ends.

The benches contain graffiti such as these on benches rear of the nave.



Fig 47: Early writing commencing 'A Stephens'.



Fig 48: It probably reads 'P ROYNON / 11.20AM / 26.10.1936.'



Fig 49: It reads 'B NEWTON 15 NOV 1947.'

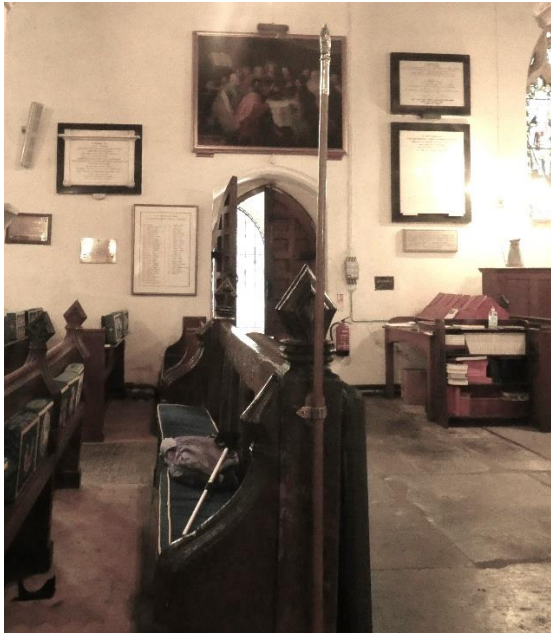


Fig 50: Bench in nave close to south door.

The top of the bench above in Fig 47 above contains graffiti as below.



*Fig 51: A double V
'ritual protection'
(apotropaic) mark.*



Fig 52:

*Top left- Ritual
Protection box?*

*Lower half –
possible sword?*



Fig 53: A compass drawn design. The vast majority of these designs are currently considered to act as 'ritual protection' (apotropaic) markings.



Fig 54: Left Another faint compass drawn design.



Fig 55: Left? Centre – Protection dots or hammer marks?



Fig 56: A square surrounded by four double peaks



Fig 57: Another compass drawn design. A drawing of a crescent moon?



Fig 58: bench end with stave.



Fig 59: Brass plaque on bench in nave close to south door.

The same bench has a brass plaque.



Fig 60: Detail of the plaque.



Fig 61: Pulpit. Above and right.

The 1909 Perpendicular style pulpit.
The upper part is oak and basement
and pedestal of Ham stone.





Fig 62: Pulpit handrail.

The pulpit brass handrail contains a memorial plaque to Ellen Jose.

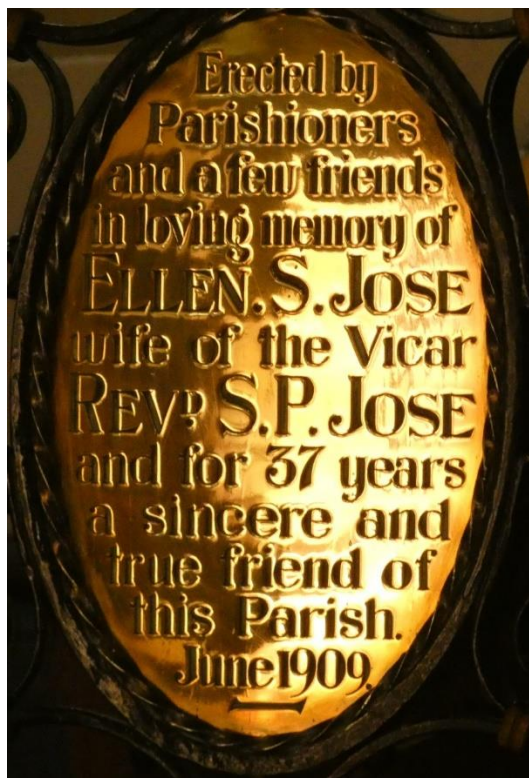


Fig 63: Close up of inscription.

Erected by
Parishioners
and a few friends
in loving memory of
ELLEN.S JOSE
Wife of the Vicar
Rev^d S.P.JOSE
and for 37 years
a sincere and
true friend of
this Parish
June 1909



Fig 64: Brass plaques on the pulpit.

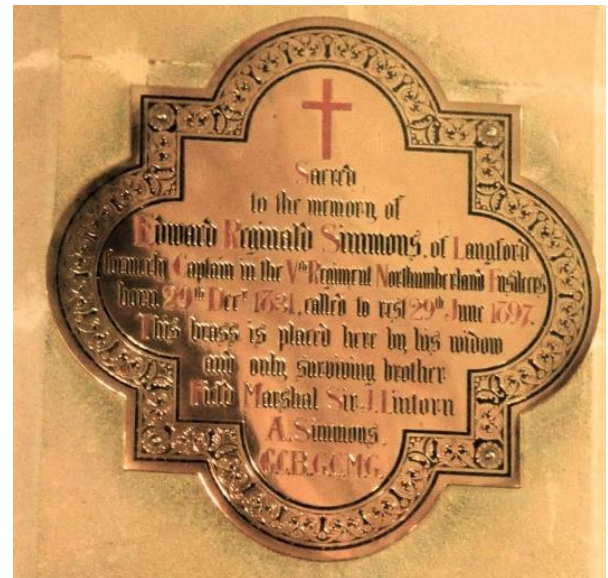


Fig 65: the upper plaque.

The inscription is:

Sacred

In the memory of

Edward Reginald Simmons of Langford

formerly Captain in the Vth Regiment Northumberland Fusiliers

from 29th Dec^r 1831, called to rest 29th June 1897.

This brass is placed here by his widow

and only surviving brother

Field Marshall Sir I Lintorn

A Simmons

GCB GC MG

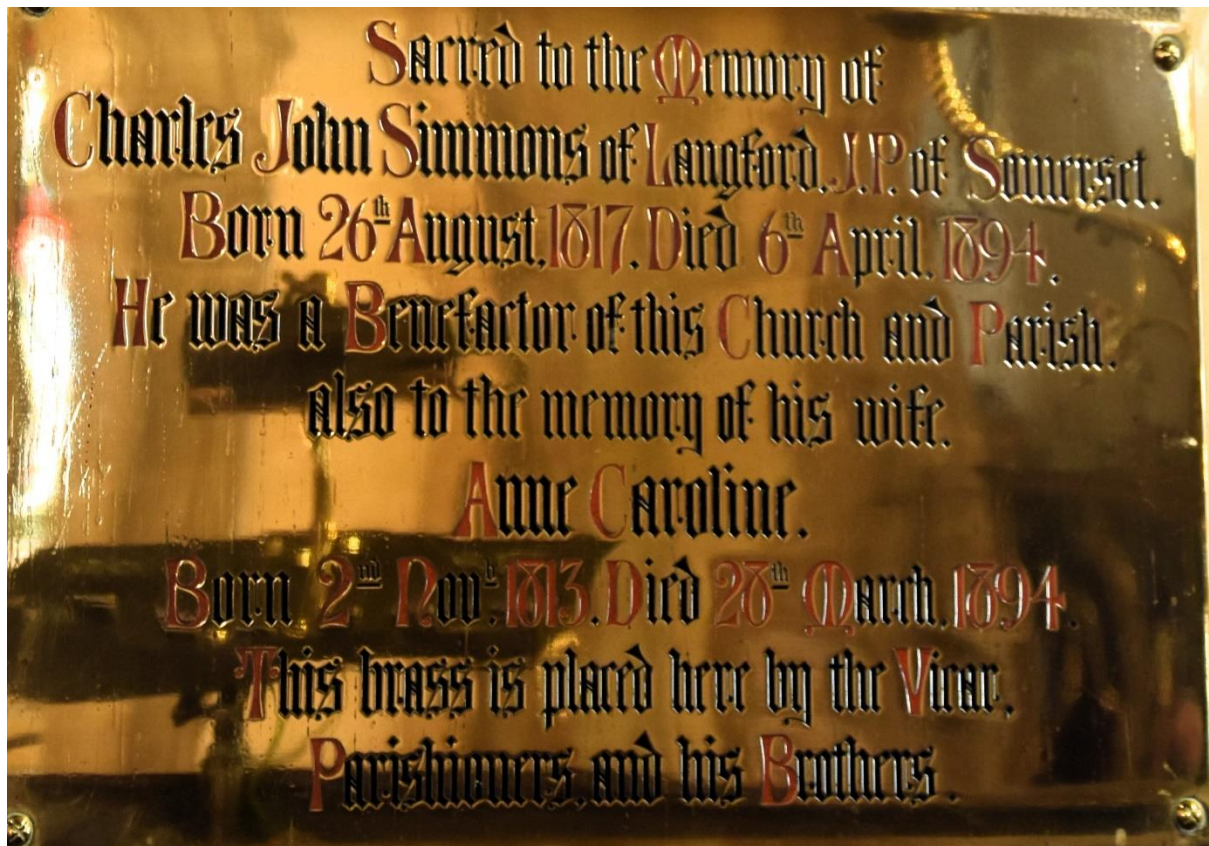


Fig 66: The lower plaque.

The inscription is:

Sacred in the Memory of
 Charles John Simmons of Langford, JP of Somerset
 Born 26th August 1817. Died 6th April 1894
 He was a Benefactor of this Church and Parish
 also to the memory of his wife
 Anne Caroline.
 Born 2nd Nov^r 1813. Died 26th March 1894
 This brass is placed here by the Vicar,
 Parishioners and his Brothers

.

The restored wagon roof has fine carved corbels.



Fig 67: Nave looking east. Note the corbels beneath the oak roof.

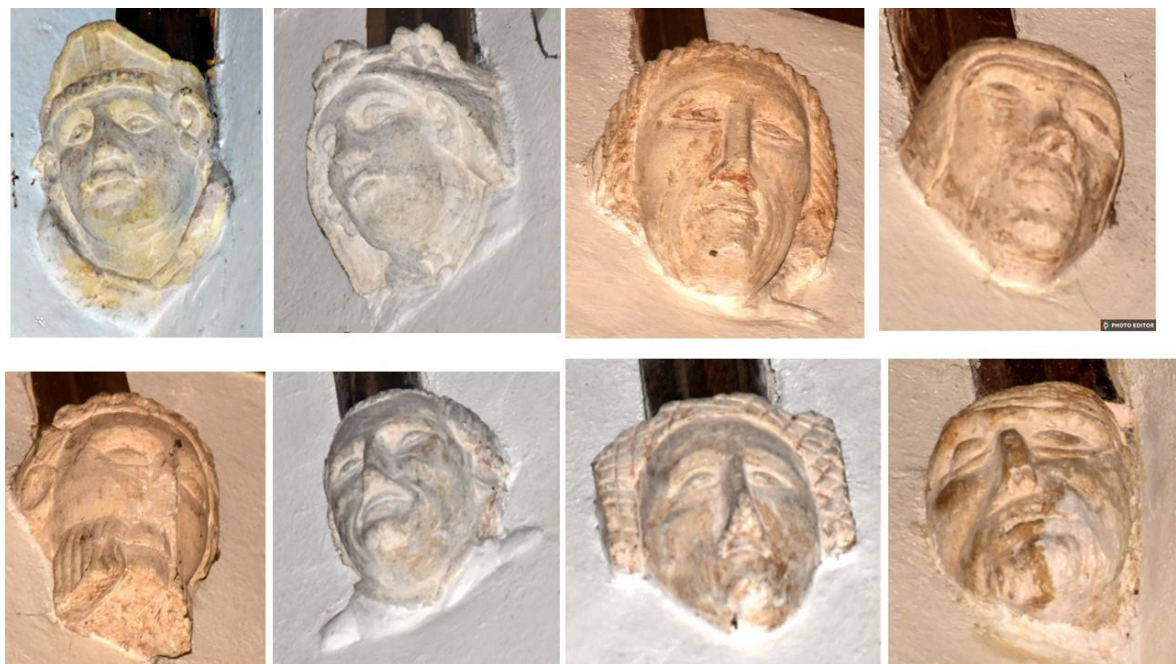


Fig 68: Nave corbels.



Fig 69: Nave corbels.



Fig 70: Two close ups of corbels.

CHANCEL

South Wall

The church guide states that the "*small chancel of the twelfth century was rebuilt as a larger structure in 1419 to accommodate the first choir stalls.*" The date of the present choir stalls is not known.

A ogee headed piscina (basin) is on the south east wall.



Fig 71: The piscina.



Fig 72: The door to the chancel. Used by priests to avoid entering via the nave.

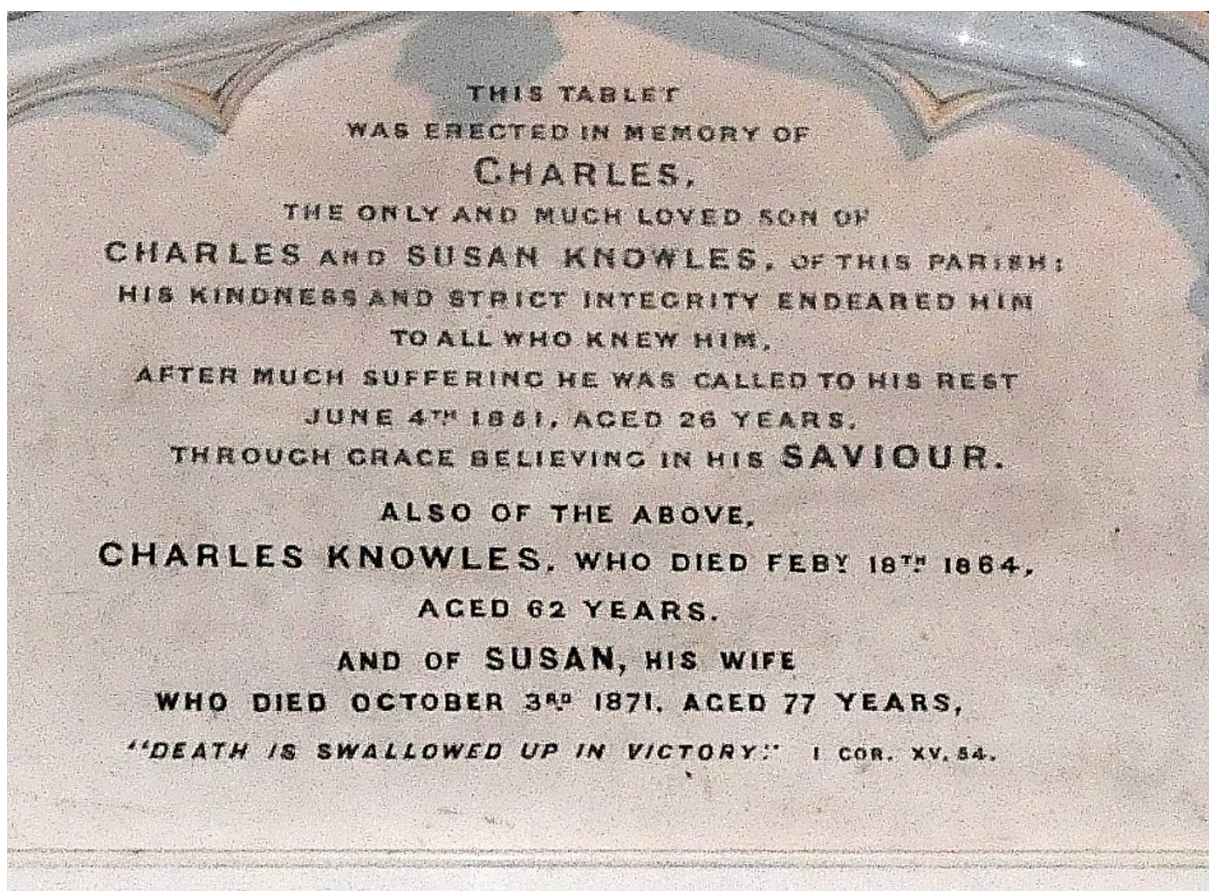


Fig 73: Memorial above the door.



Fig 74 South wall – east.

The southeast section of the wall has a C19 Perpendicular style 2-light window and right is the squint.

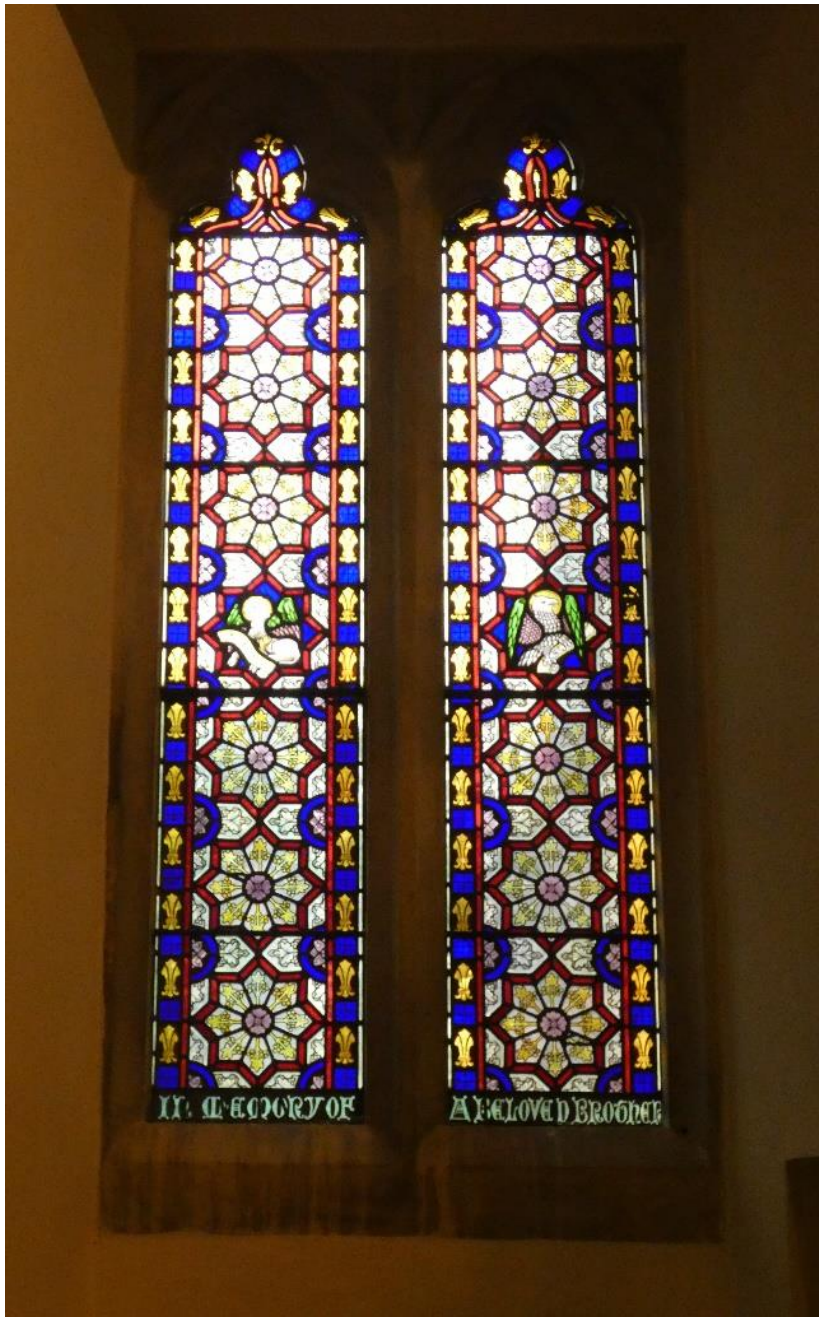


Fig 75: South wall window.

The other C19 Perpendicular style 2-light window on the south wall has the inscription:

IN MEMORY OF A BELOVED BROTHER



Fig 76: The east window.

The three light Perpendicular style east window.



Fig 77: Plaque on chancel floor.

The floor was tiled in the 1879/1880 renovations, but these were removed from the sanctuary in 1946 and replaced by Purbeck stone.



Fig 78: The Latch monument on the north wall.

The Latch monument features Sir Thomas Latch, his wife and their children.

Knight records the following:

'Sir John Latch's very striking if rather gruesome monument, against the north wall of the chancel, represents the life size figure of the knight in the military costume of

the Stuart period, - scarlet coat, brown jack-boots and gold-hilted sword - half-reclining by the side of a shrouded figure, from which he is drawing back part of the covering. A family tradition, handed down through his descendants, says that Sir John Latch came home from the war, in 1644, to find his wife dead, and that on seeing her body, he himself immediately expired. Eleven diminutive figures, representing seven boys and four girls, of whom four carry skulls kneel on cushions below the effigies of their parents. Lying at the feet of the eldest boy is the figure of a twelfth child, an infant - presumably from its place, a son - swathed in black.'



St. Johns Church Churchill

Fig 79: The Latch children.



Fig 80: The male children. Two are holding skulls. The lower right-hand side shows the baby swathed in black.



Fig 81: The female children.

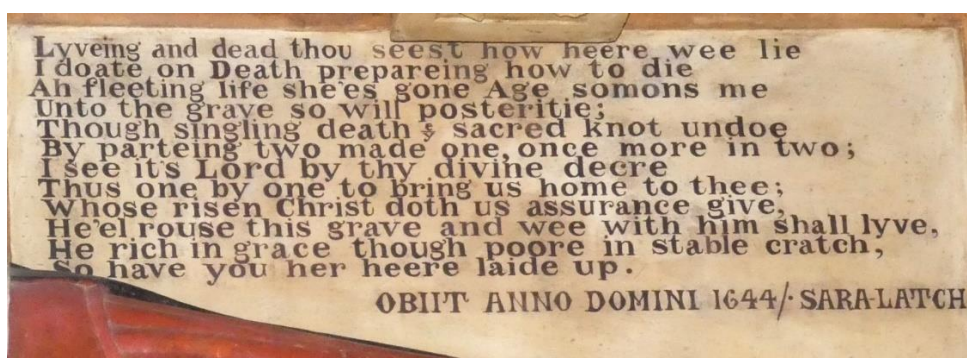


Fig 82: The inscription.

This reads: 'Lyveing and dead thou seest how heere wee lie
 I doate on Death prepareing how to die
 Ah fleeting life she'es gone. Age somons me
 Unto the grave so will posteritie;
 Though singling death ye sacred Knot undoe
 By parteing two made one, once more in two;
 I see it's Lord by thy divine decre
 Thus one by one to bring us home to thee;
 Whose risen Christ doth us assurance give,
 He'el rouse this grave, and wee with him shall lyve,
 He rich in grace, though poore in stable cratch
 So have you her heere laid up.
 OBIIT ANNO DOMINI 1644 / SARAH LATCH

The north wall of the chancel has the following memorials



Fig 83: Memorial to Sarah Latch.



Fig 84: Memorial to Samuel Shipley.

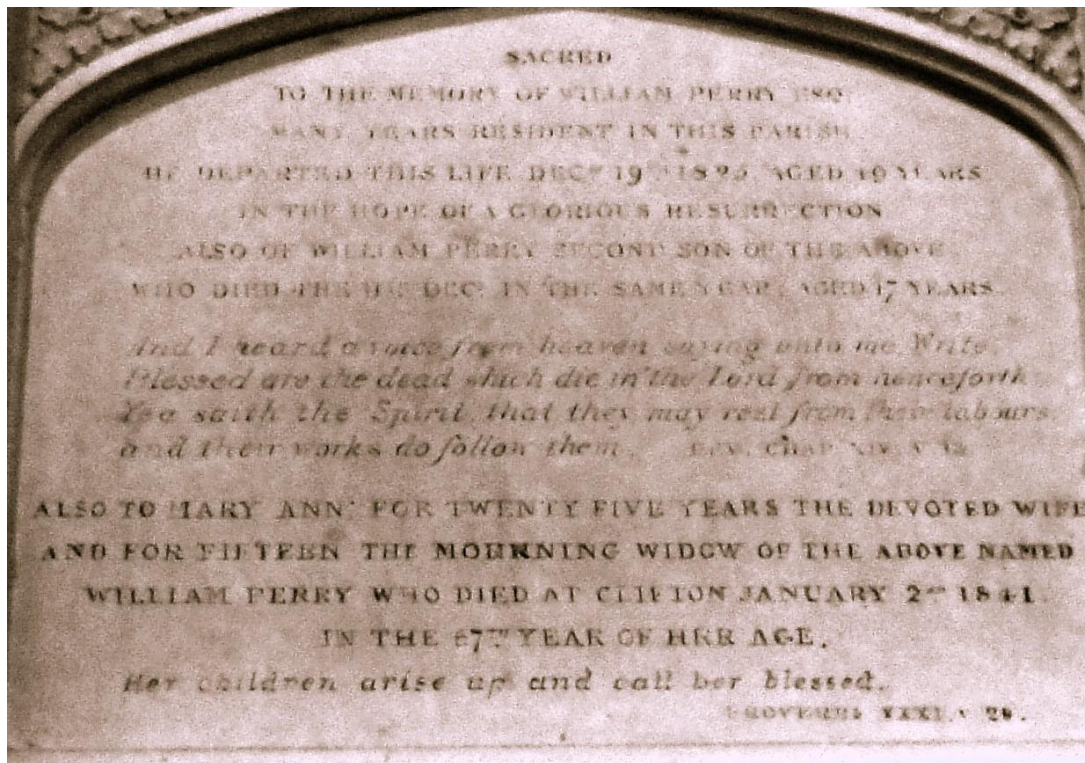


Fig 85: Memorial to William and Mary Perry.

The inscription is:

SACRED
TO THE MEMORY OF WILLIAM PERRY ESQ
MANY YEARS RESIDENT IN THIS PARISH
HE DEPARTED THIS LIFE DEC 19 1825 AGED 49 YEARS
IN THE HOPE OF A GLORIOUS RESURRECTION
ALSO OF WILLIAM PERRY SECOND SON OF THE ABOVE
WHO DIED THE 11TH DEC IN THE SAME YEAR AGED 17 YEARS

*And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me Write
Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth
Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours
and their works do follow them
Revelation XIV V 13*

ALSO TO MARY ANN: FOR TWENTY FIVE YEARS THE DEVOTED WIFE
AND FOR FIFTEEN THE MOURNING WIDOW OF THE ABOVE NAMED
WILLIAM PERRY WHO DIED AT CLIFTON JANUARY 2ND 1841
IN THE 67TH YEAR OF HER AGE
Her children arise up and call her blessed
PROVERBS XXXI V 28



Fig 86: West end of north wall.

A doorway to the rood screen and loft can be seen in at the west end of the north wall.



Fig 87: North section of the chancel arch.



Fig 88: Plaque on the north jamb of chancel arch.

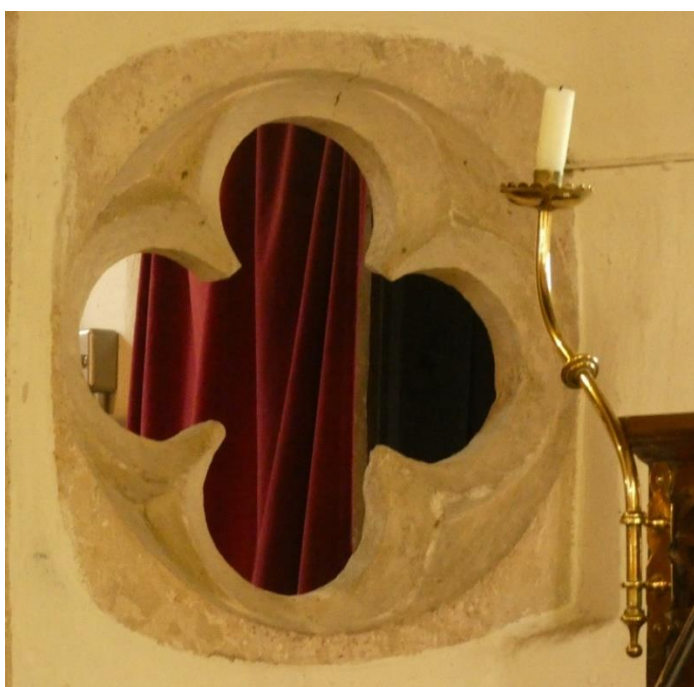


Fig 89: The squint.

There is a quatrefoil squint on the north jamb of the chancel arch.

NORTH AISLE

The north aisle dates to the late 15th century.



Fig 90: Organ and window.

The east window by Clayton & Bell, 1880, is obscured by the organ.

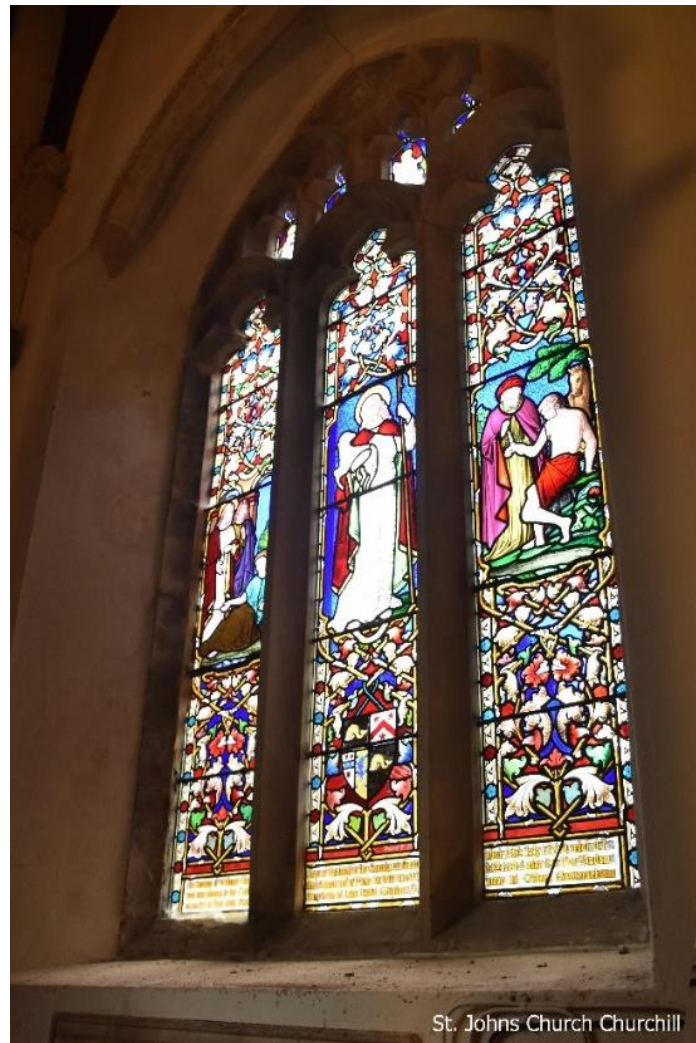


Fig 91: The east window



Fig 92: The memorial at the bottom of the window.

The text reads:

In Memory of William Simmons / Esq of Newland in the County of Glos
 obit 12th July 1792 a(e)tat 47 / and was interred in the Chapel of / this
 Church and of Pheobe his Wife obit / 25th 1824 a(e)tat 80 This window
 is erected by their only Grandchild / Mary Wife of John Noble Shipton D
 D / vicar of Ottery Somerset

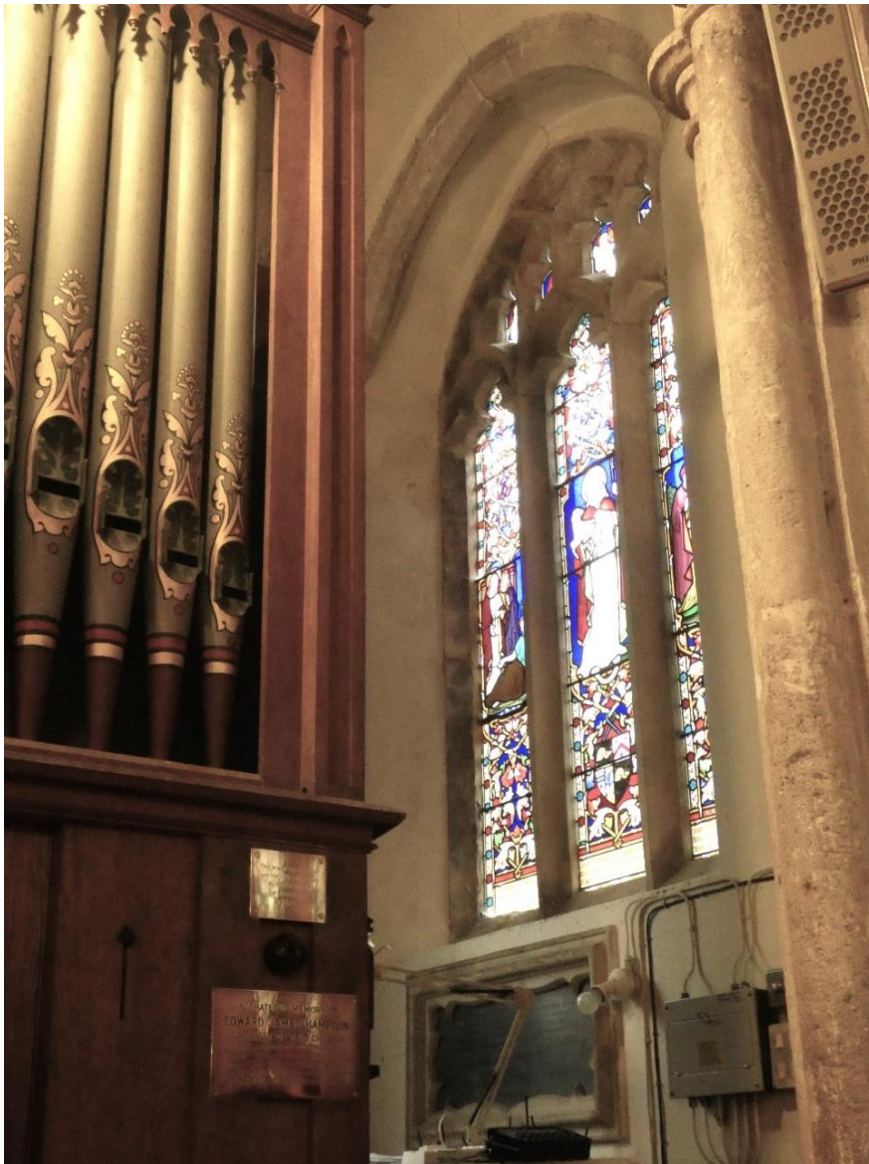


Fig 93: The east window and below it a plaque.

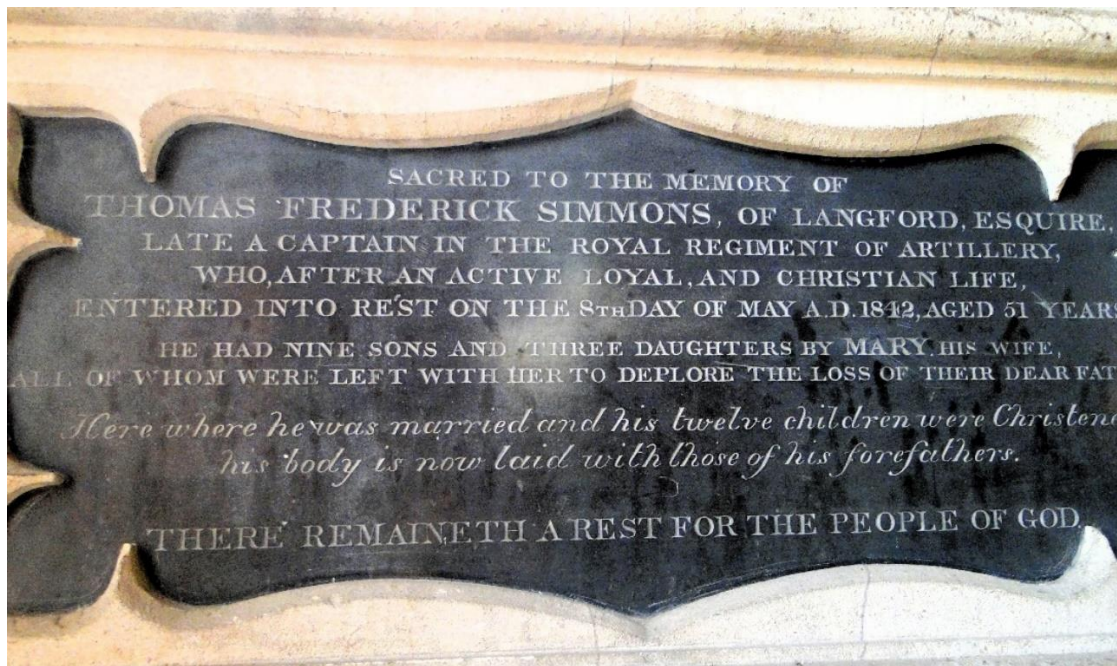


Fig 94: The plaque under the east window.

The plaque reads:

SACRED TO THE MEMORY OF / THOMAS FREDERICK SIMMONS OF
 LANGFORD, ESQUIRE, / LATE A CAPTAIN IN THE ROYAL REGIMENT OF
 ARTILLERY, / WHO, AFTER AN ACTIVE LOYAL, AND CHRISTIAN LIFE, /
 ENTERED INTO REST ON THE 8TH DAY OF MAY A.D. 1812 AGED 51
 YEARS/

HE HAD NINE SONS AND THREE DAUGHTERS BY MARY, HIS WIFE. / ALL OF WHOM
 WERE LEFT WITH HER TO DEPLORE THE LOSS OF THEIR DEAR FATHER /

*Here where he was married and his twelve children were Christened / his body is now laid
 with those of his forefathers.*

THERE REMAINETH A REST FOR THE PEOPLE OF GOD

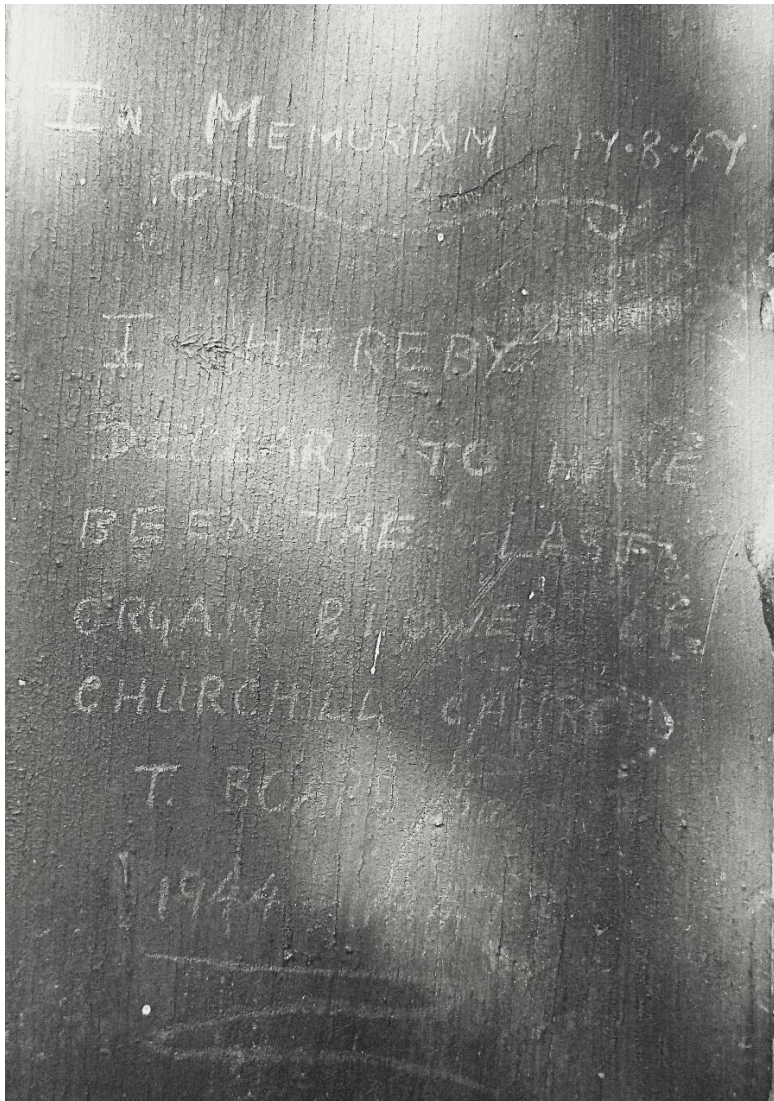


Fig 95: An inscription on the right hand side of the organ.

The text in Fig 95 above reads:

IN MEMORIAM 17.8.47

I HEREBY

DECLARE TO HAVE

BEEN THE LAST

ORGAN BLOWER OF

CHURCHILL CHURCH

T BOARD

1944-1947

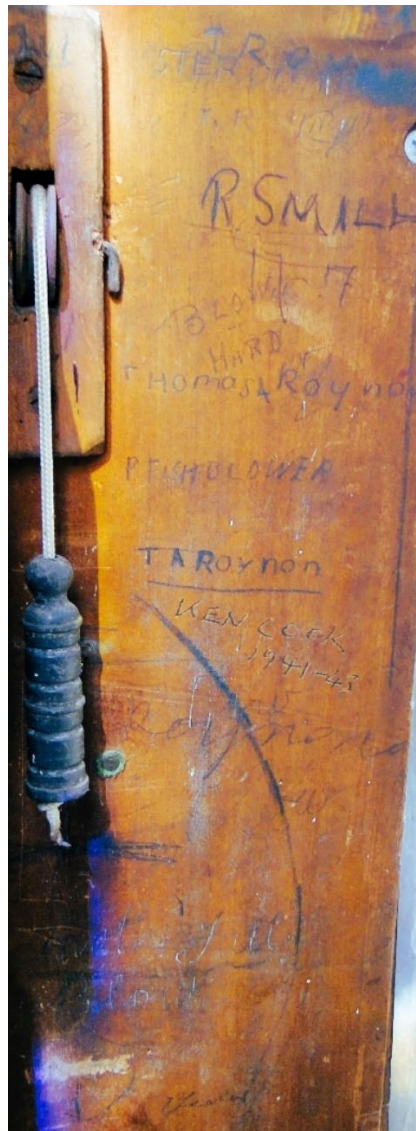


Fig 96: Further inscriptions on the right of the organ.

The inscriptions include:

R SMILL
 BLOW HARD
 THOMAS ROYNON
 P FISH BLOWER
 T A ROYNON
 KEN COOK
 1941- 43



Fig 97: The organ and right the site of memorial plaques.

At the east end of the north aisle is the organ dating from 1882. It was initially hand blown. The bellows still exist, but in 1947 an electric blower was added.

In 1906 the organ was restored, enlarged and several stops were added. The manual side was turned south so that the organist could see the choir.

The swell and oboe were revoiced in 1955 and in 1970 a balanced swell pedal was fitted.

In 1985 a major overhaul and a new stop was fitted to replace a little-used one.



Fig 98: Brass plaques on the right-hand side of the organ.

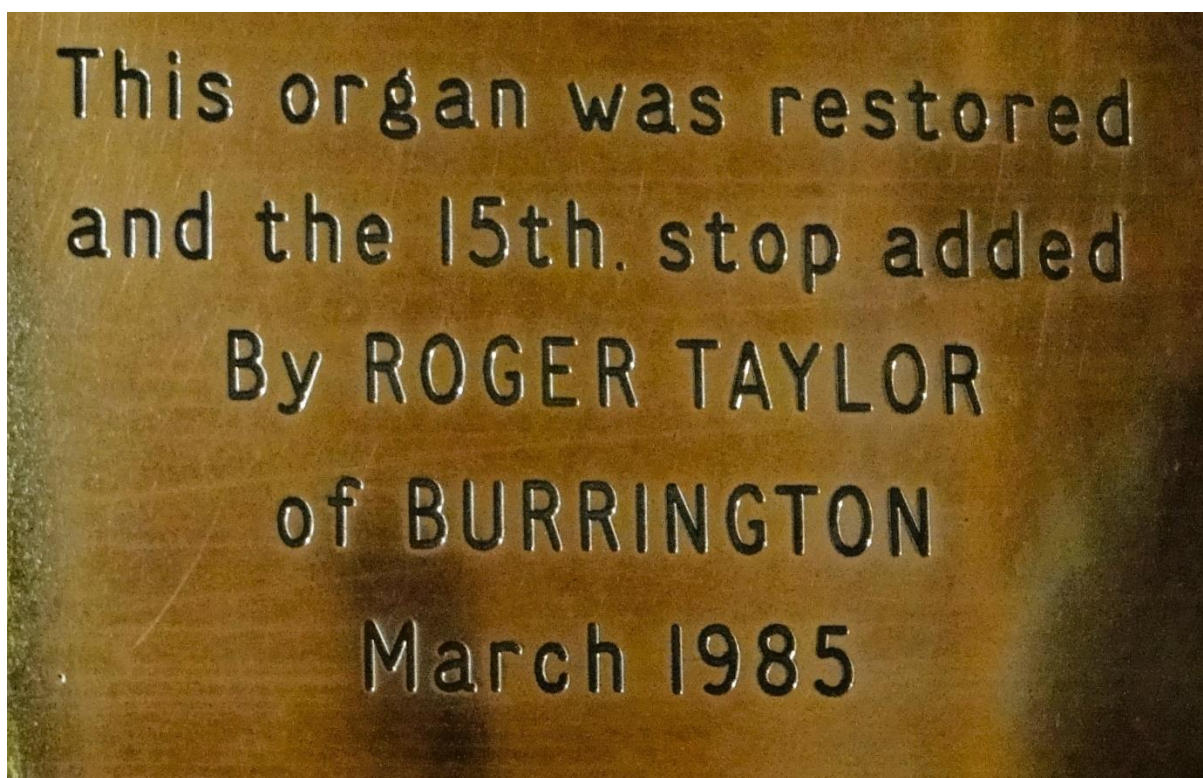


Fig 99: Plaque on the organ to Roger Taylor.

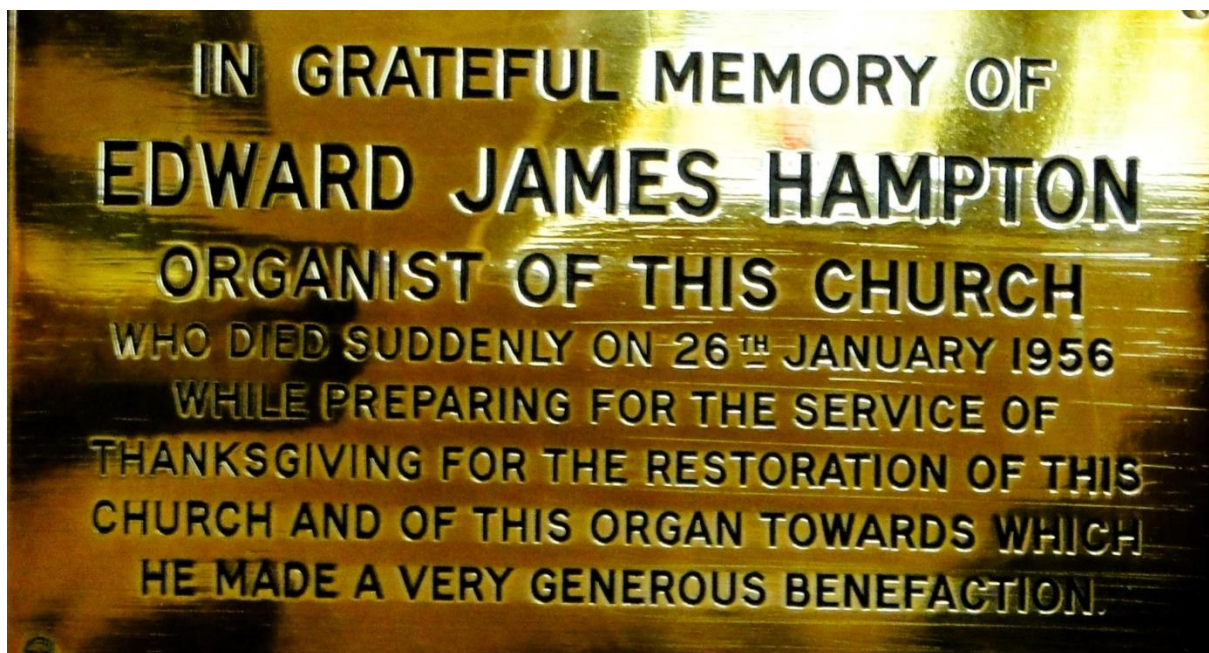


Fig 100: Plaque on the organ to Edward James Hampton.

The inscription reads:

IN GRATEFUL MEMORY OF
EDWARD JAMES HAMPTON
ORGANIST OF THIS CHURCH
WHO DIED SUDDENLY ON 26TH JANUARY 1956
WHILE PREPARING FOR THE SERVICE OF
THANKSGIVING FOR THE RESTORATION OF THIS
CHURCH AND OF THIS ORGAN TOWARDS WHICH
HE MADE A VERY GENEROUS BENEFACTION

The floor of the north aisle contains three memorials.



Fig 101: By the organ – A memorial to Abraham Taylor.

The inscription reads:

HERE LIETH
THE BODY OF
ABRAHAM TAYLER
OF THIS PARISH WHO
DEPARTED THIS LIFE
MAY THE 12TH 1713
IN Y^E 41 YEARE
OF HIS AGE

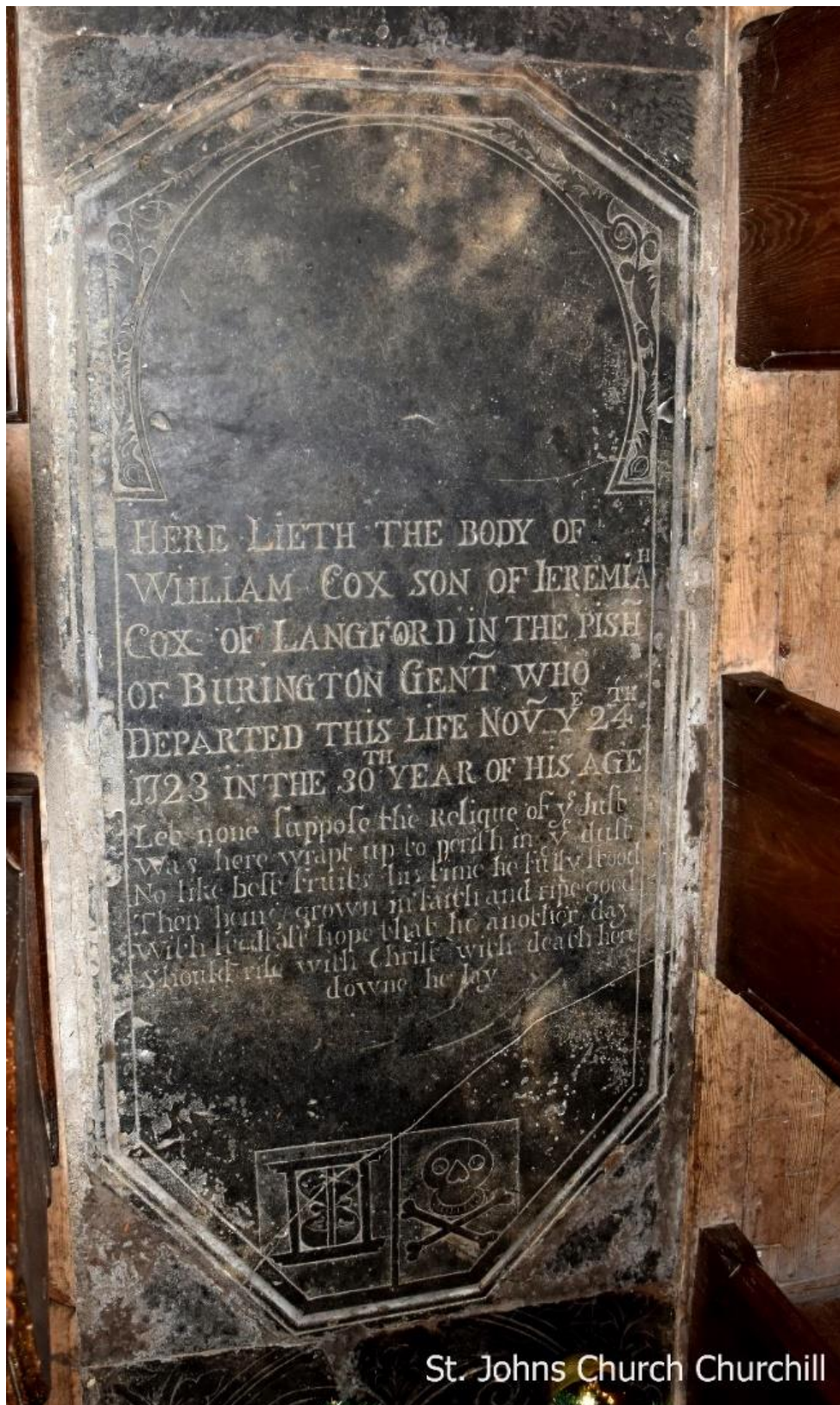


Fig 102: Memorial to William Cox.

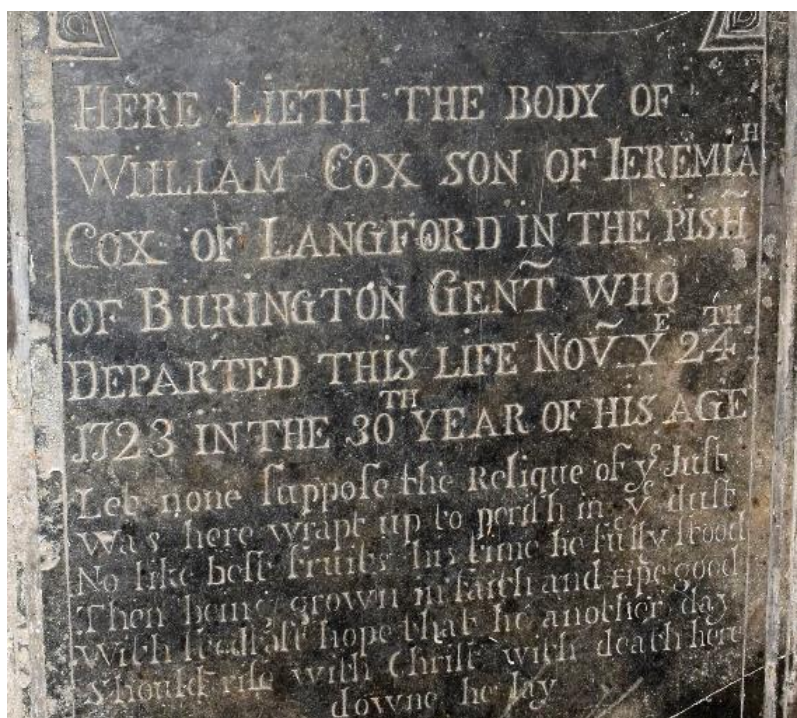


Fig 103: Close up of the inscription.

The inscription reads:

HERE LIETH THE BODY OF
WILLIAM COX SON OF JEREMIA^H
COX OF LANGFORD IN THE PISH
OF BURINGTON GENT WHO
DEPARTED THIS LIFE NOV Y^E 24TH
1723 IN THE 30TH YEAR OF HIS AGE

Let none fuppose the relique of Y^e Juft
Was here wrapt up to periph in y^e duft
No like beft Fruits his time he fully ftood
The being grown in faith and ripe good
With ? hope that he another day
Should rise with Christ with death here
downe he lay

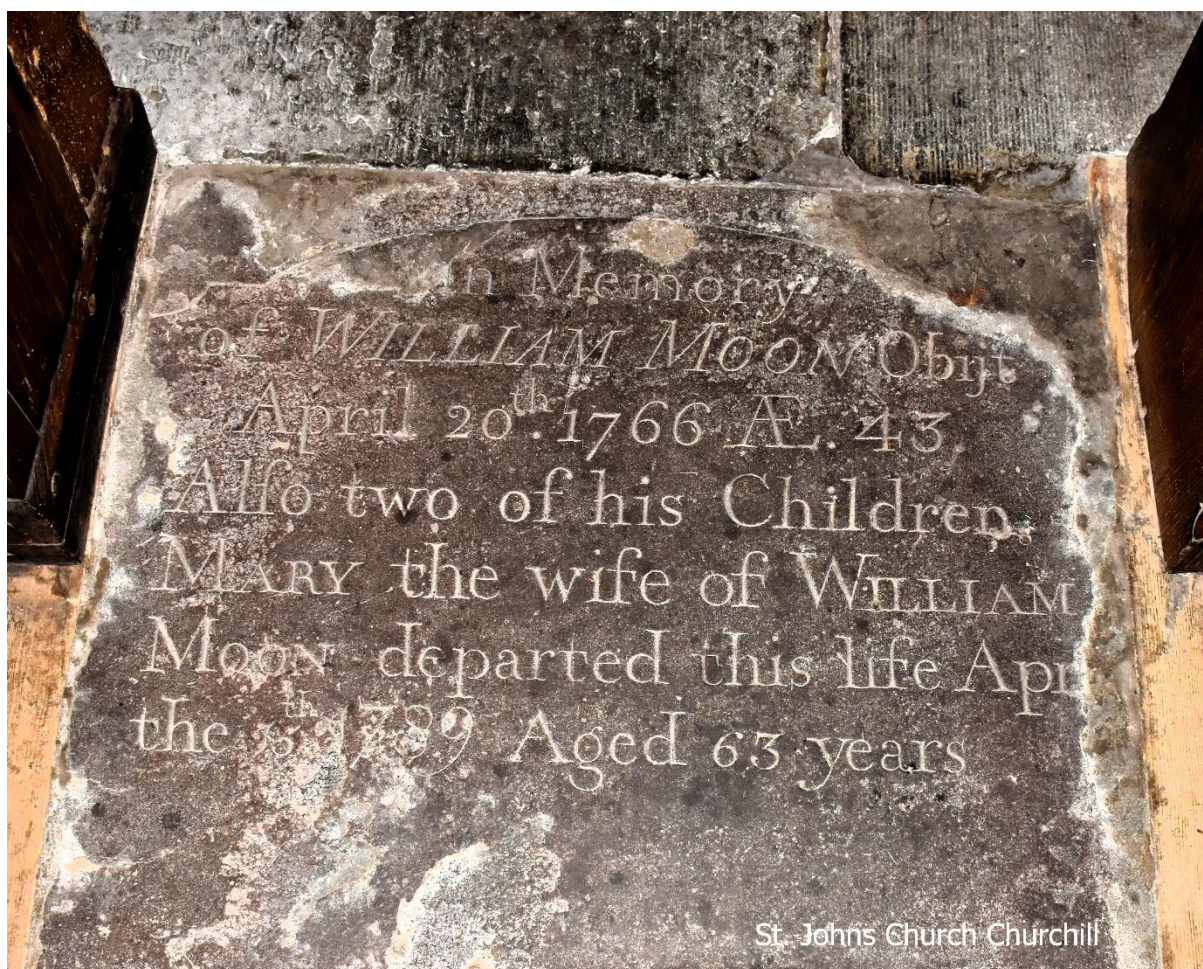


Fig 104: Memorial to William Moon, his children and wife.

The inscription:

In Memory
of *WILLIAM MOON* Obet
April 20th 1766 Æ 43
Also two of his Children
MARY the wife of WILLIAM
MOON departed this life Apr[il]
the 25th 1789 Aged 63 years

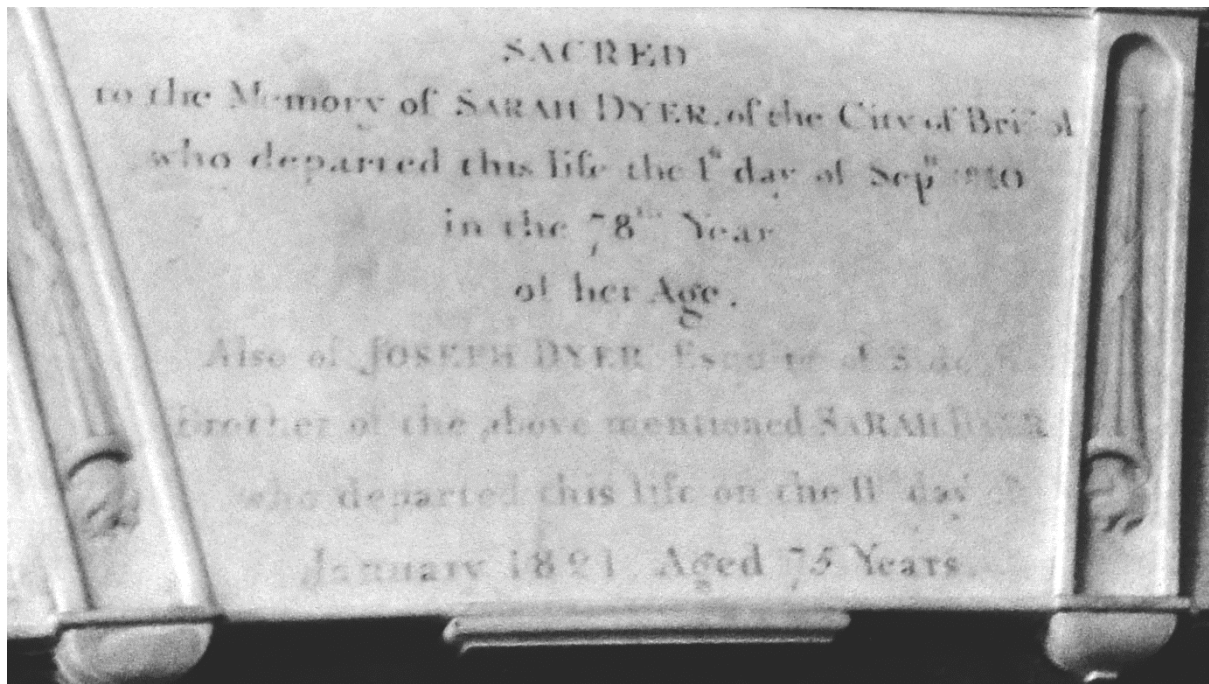


Fig 105: Memorial to Sarah and Joseph Dyer.

West of the organ is the plaque in Fig 105 above which is inscribed:

SACRED
 To the Memory of SARAH DYER of the city of Bristol
 who departed this life the 1st day of Sep^r 1810
 In the 78th Year
 of her Age.
 Also of JOSEPH DYER Esq of Sidcot
 Brother of the above mentioned SARAH DYER
 who departed this life on the 11 day of
 January 1821 Aged 75 Years
**Burial certificate shows he was also of Oakridge, Winscombe*

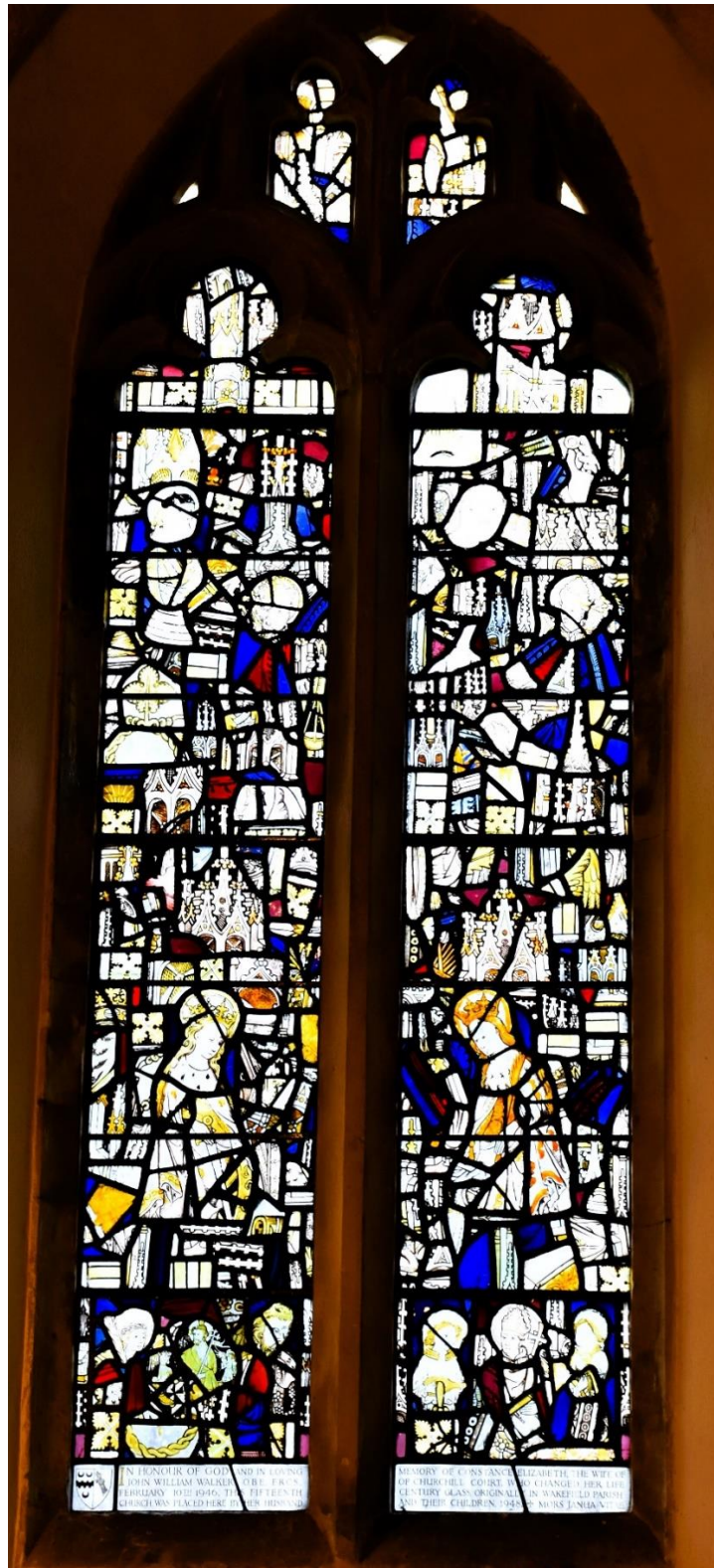


Fig 106: Window – west of the organ.

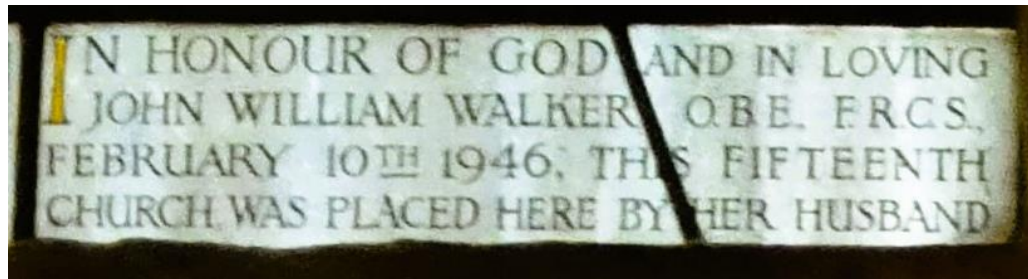


Fig 107: Memorial at the bottom of the window.

The inscription:

IN HONOUR OF GOD AND IN LOVING / MEMORY OF CONSTANCE ELIZABETH THE
WIFE OF / JOHN WILLIAM WALKER OBE FRCS / OF CHURCHILL COURT WHO
CHANGED HER LIFE / FEBRUARY 10TH 1946. THIS FIFTEENTH / CENTURY GLASS
ORIGINALLY IN WAKEFIELD PARISH / CHURCH WAS PLACED HERE BY HER
HUSBAND / AND THEIR CHILDREN 1948 MORS JANUA VITAE



Fig 108: Window over the north door.

0



Fig 109: Inscription at the bottom of the window.

The inscription:

To the glory of God and in memory of Stephen Prust Jose M A
44 years vicar of Churchill 1872- 1916 this window is dedicated
by his parish as a token of love esteem and veneration AD 1916



Fig 110: The 19th century north door.

IN MEMORY OF
ELISSA, BASIL, IOANNA, ADA, AND MARIANA.
THE BELOVED CHILDREN OF
W. I. BELLEW ARCHER, INCUMBENT
OF THIS PARISH,
AND MARIAN HIS WIFE.

ELISSA,
DIED 16 JULY 1845, AGED 13 YEARS.
AND WAS BURIED AT THE NORTH SIDE
OF THIS CHURCHYARD.

BASIL,
DIED 2 AUG. 1845, AGED 6 MONTHS,
AND WAS BURIED IN THE NORTH WEST CORNER
OF THIS CHURCH.

IOANNA,
DIED 7 OCT. 1846, AGED 16 YEARS,
AND WAS BURIED WITH ELISSA.

ADA,
DIED 7 SEPT. 1848, AGED 19 YEARS.
AND WAS BURIED WITH HER SISTERS.

MARIANA,
DIED 13 MAY 1849, AGED 23 MONTHS.
AT SAINTES, IN FRANCE, AND WAS BURIED THERE.

"THERE SHALL BE NO MORE DEATH,
NEITHER SORROW NOR CRYING, NEITHER
SHALL THERE BE ANY MORE PAIN."

Fig 111: Plaque west of north door.

The sad plaque to the children of W I BELLEW ARCHER is west of the north door.

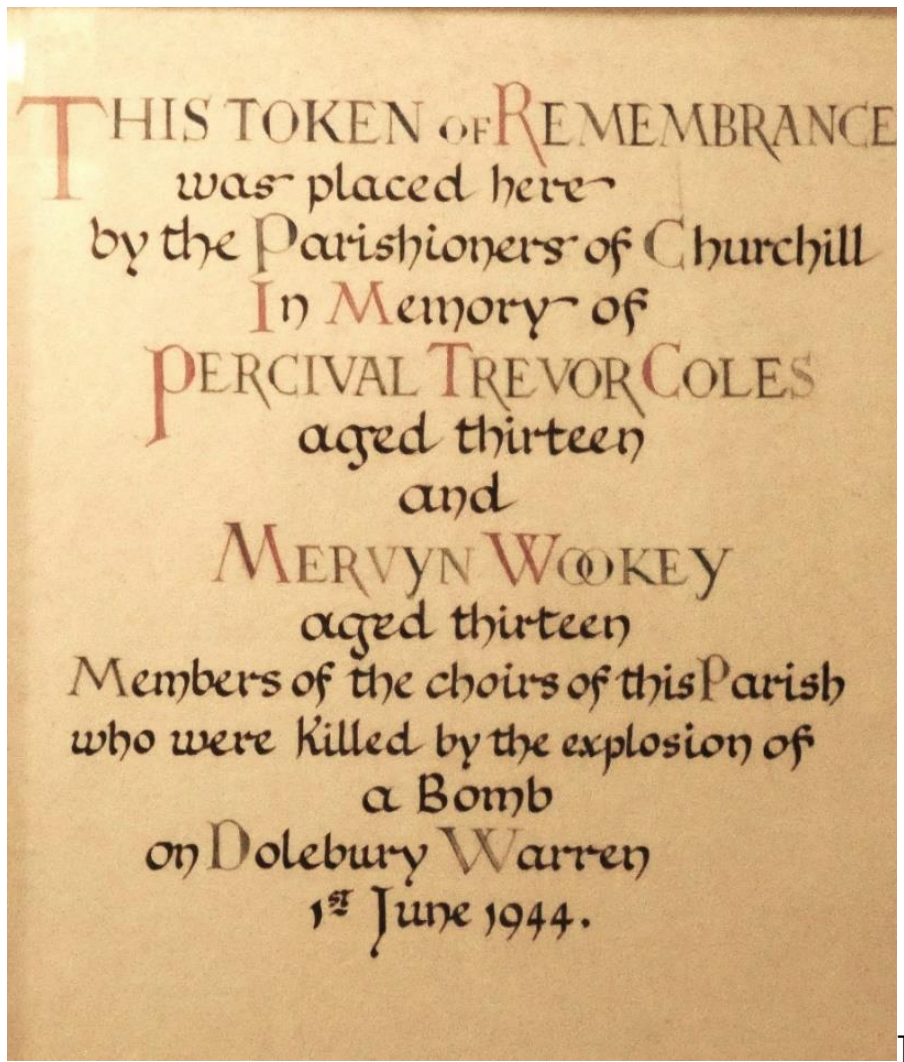


Fig 112: Plaque to two 13-year-olds.

The Gloucester Echo of June 2nd 1944 reported that:

'two boys were killed and another seriously injured in an explosion that occurred while they were playing last night on Dolbury, an ancient British camp in the Mendip Hills

Percival Trevor Coles (13) and Mervyn Wookey (13) the only child of a soldier in the Royal Engineers both of Churchill (Somerset) were killed.

An 11-year-old London boy was taken to hospital where splinters were removed from one of his legs.'

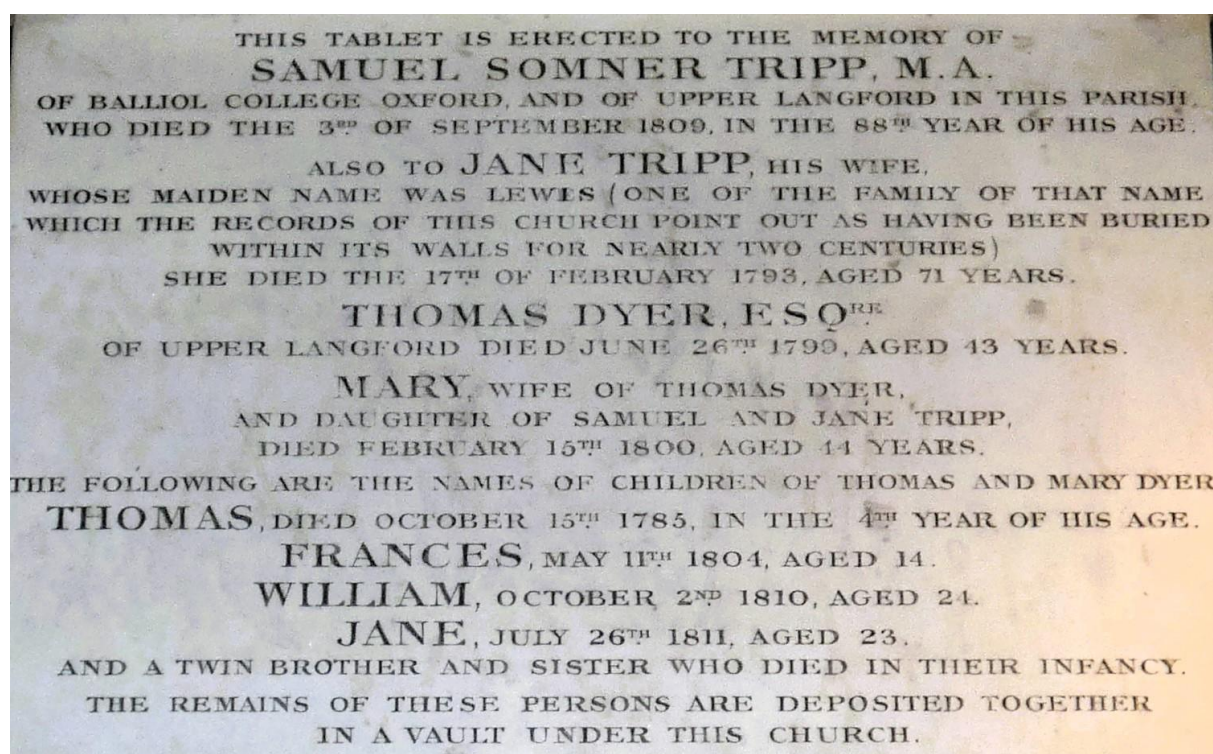


Fig 113: Another plaque on the north wall.

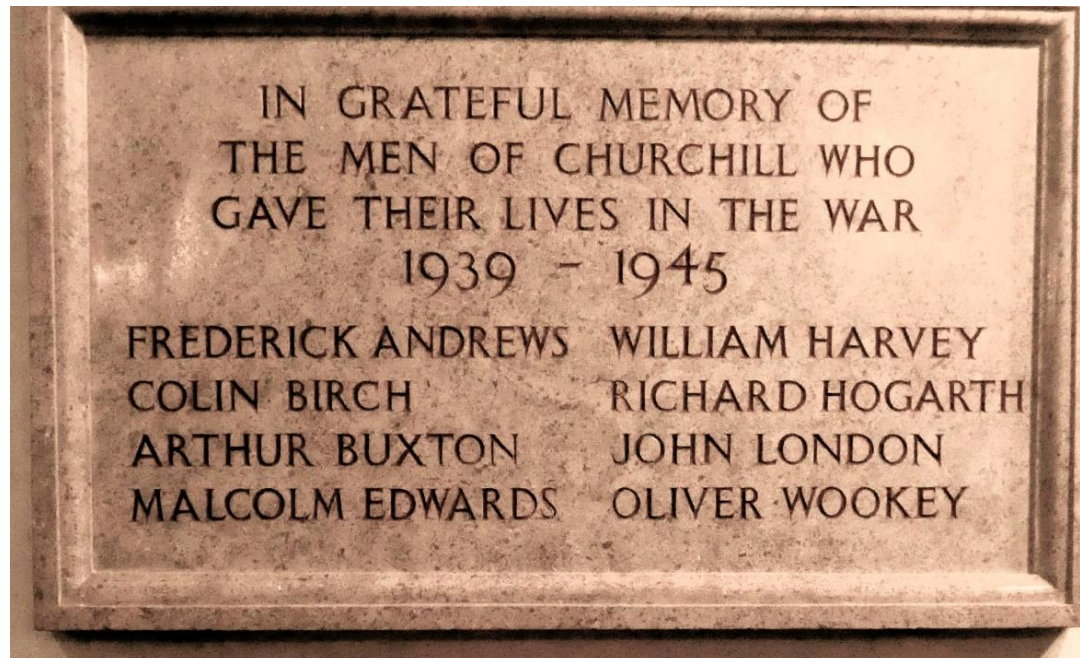


Fig 114: Second World War plaque on the north wall.



Fig 115: Window far west on the north wall.

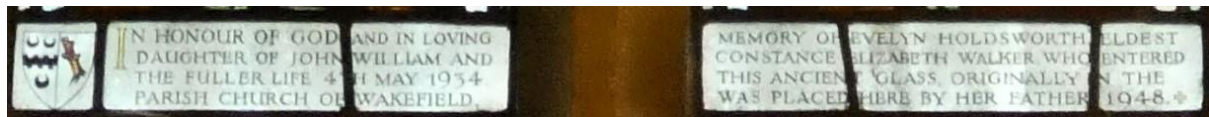


Fig 116: Inscription at bottom of the window.

This reads:

IN HONOUR OF GOD AND IN LOVING / MEMORY OF EVELYN HOLDSWORTH
 /ELDEST/ DAUGHTER OF JOHN WILLIAM AND / CONSTANCE ELIZABETH WALKER
 WHO ENTERED / THE FULLER LIFE 4TH MAY 1934 / THIS ANCIENT GLASS
 ORIGINALLY IN THE / PARISH CHURCH OF WAKEFIELD / WAS PLACED HERE BY
 HER FATHER 1948.



Fig 117: West end of the north aisle.



Fig 118: The east window.



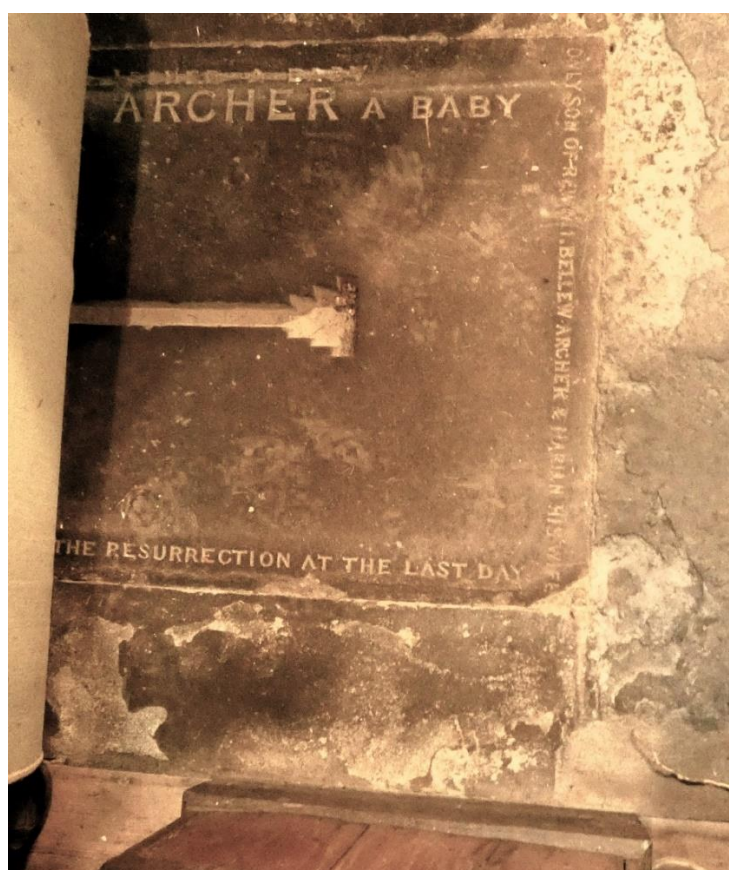
Fig 119: Inscription at the bottom of the window.

This reads:

To the Glory of God and in loving memory of James
 Henry Parris who died at Churchill 5th August 1881 and of
 Mary Anne Parris his wife who died 19th Dec 1880

IN MEMORY OF JOHN RICHARDSON, SURGEON,
 WHO FOR MANY YEARS SUSTAINED A WELL KNOWN PROFESSIONAL
 AND SCIENTIFIC REPUTATION IN THIS COUNTY.
 DIED MAY 24TH 1822. AGED 68 YEARS.
 AND OF HESTER HIS WIFE, DIED FEB^R 8TH 1837 AGED 74 YEARS.
 ALSO OF THEIR TWO SONS,
 JOHN. A SOLICITOR, DIED AT UPHILL. MAY 3RD 1848. AGED 47 YEARS.
 AND THOMAS A RESIDENT IN THIS PARISH.
 DIED OCT^R 3RD 1854, AGED 51 YEARS.
 THIS TABLET WAS ERECTED BY THE WIDOW OF
 THE ABOVE THOMAS RICHARDSON.
 ALSO IN MEMORY OF
 ELIZA, WIFE OF THE ABOVE THOMAS RICHARDSON,
 DIED MAY 22ND 1876.

Fig 120: Plaque under east window.



The inscription

Top:

HERE A BABY

ARCHER A BABY

Right:

ONLY SON OF REV W. I.
 BELLEW ARCHER & MARIAN
 HIS WIFE

Below:

THE RESURRECTION AT
 THE LAST DAY

Fig 121: Fragment of incomplete memorial slab (part hidden by a carpet) on extreme west of the north aisle by bench.



The oak chest appears to date to the 17th century,

Fig 122: Oak chest at west end of aisle.



Fig 123: Graffiti on the chest.



Fig 124: Location of memorial slab on floor of north aisle by pillar.



Fig 125: The very worn slab.

The remaining text reads:

'..RESTETH IN HOPE OF

[RE]SURRECTION..THE BODY

[C]OX SON OF JEREMIAH COX OF LAan ford]..G [] N I WM...

[T]HE PARISH OF BURREINGTON

[D]EPARTED THIS LIFE THE 25 DAY OF MARCH

1714 IN THE 25 YEAR OF HIS AGE

Duty ...to..'

Ancestry records show the christening of Francis Cox (father Jeremiah) in 1689.

'..



Fig 126: Beneath the oak roof are stone corbels.



Fig 127: North aisle demi-angels.

The oak roof is supported on stone corbels, whose angels bear the Hammer, the Three Nails, the Dice, and the Five Wounds of the Passion on their shields; one corbel has been replaced by an oak block.



Fig 128: Kneeling cushions.

An excellent modern touch throughout the church are the colourful kneeling cushions containing dedications.

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